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latest to meet
BCS buzz saw**

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all communication
under ONE-NET**

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'hick-hop'
yields big hits**

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Big & Rich

Volume 63, No. 235 © EPSS 2004 J

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

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GIs who refused convoy won't face courts-martial

23 from 343rd Quartermaster Company to get nonjudicial punishment

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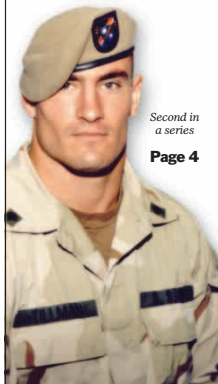
**Eagles
refuse
to come
back
to the
Pack**

Philadelphia Eagles running back Brian Westbrook runs past Green Bay Packers' Nick Barnett during the first half Sunday in Philadelphia. Westbrook scored three touchdowns in the Eagles' 47-17 rout of the Packers. The Eagles improved to 11-1, the best record in the NFC. For more NFL action see Pages 36-39



AP

**In Afghanistan,
confusion after
an ambush leads
to Pat Tillman's
death**



Second in
a series

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Ukraine election turmoil: Ukraine's leader attempted to ease fears he might hinder a repeat of the fraud-ridden presidential runoff, pledging Monday to honor the Supreme Court's call for a repeat vote.

Outgoing President Leonid Kuchma's comments, delivered at a meeting of economic ministers, were his first public reaction to Friday's court decision.

"I am ready for further steps to ease the absolutely baseless tension in society," Kuchma said. He proposed parliament consider introducing changes in the electoral law and the constitution.

North Korea nuclear weapons: The U.S. envoy to six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons programs will visit South Korea this week in efforts to revive the stalled negotiations, officials said Monday.

Joseph DeTrani is scheduled to meet his counterpart, Cho Tae-yong, chief of Seoul's task force for the nuclear dispute, during a two-day visit starting Wednesday.

Army depot standoff: A French soldier who locked himself in an explosives depot and threatened to blow it up surrendered Monday, ending a three-day standoff, the Interior Ministry said.

Officials said Régis Le Tohic, a 46-year-old warrant officer and explosives expert, had been angry about being forced to retire.

Le Tohic, who worked at the facility about 60 miles east of Paris, seized control of the depot Friday, officials said.

Col. Patrick Chailian, an army spokesman, said officials had found a letter outside the depot from Le Tohic demanding that the army reconsider his request for a promotion that could have prolonged his career.

War on terrorism

Alleged plot against Alawi: Authorities searched a building in Berlin on Monday while investigating an alleged plot to attack Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Alawi during his visit last week.

A judge in Karlsruhe, Germany, issued an official arrest warrant Saturday for three Iraqis accused of belonging to Ansar al-Islam, a group that has mounted attacks on U.S. and allied forces in Iraq since last year's invasion.



Church abuse settlement: A parishioner hugs Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange Bishop Tod D. Brown after Mass on Sunday at Holy Family Cathedral Church in Orange, Calif. Brown told parishioners he can finally sleep through the night now that he has ended a legal battle by agreeing to the nation's largest settlement for victims of sexual abuse by clergy. The \$100 million settlement, expected to be finalized this week, will be paid by the church and its insurers to 87 victims. "The victims will be fairly compensated and, at the same time, our diocese will be able to continue our mission of service," he said.

They had been detained Friday after surveillance investigators noticed suspicious movements suggesting they planned to attack Alawi during his visit, prosecutors said.

States

Robert Blake murder trial: In Los Angeles, opening statements in actor Robert Blake's murder trial were delayed Monday for two weeks because of the theft of his defense attorney's computer.

Attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach told the court that he would need more time to prepare because he lost materials in the computer taken in a burglary from his home.

Superior Court Judge Darlene Schenck granted a delay until Dec. 20 and questioned jurors individually about whether it would influence them during the trial. All of them returned to their seats.

Mother charged in baby's death: The stepfather of a Plano, Texas, woman charged with murder after allegedly severing her 10-month-old daughter's arm said he believes she was dangerously consumed by a self-described prophet and his church.

Mick Macaulay said he believes Dena Schlosser was mentally ill. He added, however, that he also thinks the teachings of Doyle Davidson played a role.

"I don't think there's any question that what we saw happen here is postpartum psychosis," Macaulay said. "But that doesn't mean there aren't dynamics in force to push the person toward the psychotic break."

Davidson says he's had little interaction with Schlosser since she began attending his church in 2002.

Slain Utah wife: The family of a Utah murder victim has removed her married surname from her grave's headstone after her husband was charged with killing her.

Lori Hacking's headstone now reads "Lori Kay Soares"—her maiden name. Mark Hacking has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder and his trial is set to begin April 18.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Navy moves toward network simplification

ONE-NET will allow naval personnel to use the same e-mail domain

By GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SAEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy's worldwide communications—including between individual sailors—are about to become simpler, swifter and more secure, Navy officials predict.

That's because ONE-NET—the Outside Continental United States-Navy Enterprise Network—now is taking shape in the Pacific and elsewhere, said Lt. Cmdr. Ralph Roe, detachment officer of Sasebo's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, or SPAWAR.

Among ONE-NET's advantages: Making communicating by e-mail easier by letting everyone on a facility use the same e-mail domain and global address book.

The new network already is in the early stages of replacing most

of the mini-networks at bases from London to Guam and should be operating in the Pacific by September 2007, a recent Navy news report stated.

"It is very similar to what's been done with the Navy/Marine Corps Intranet statewide, and the IT21 network that serves the ships," Roe said. "ONE-NET will... create a centralized network at each base for all the command and tenant commands. Right now, even here in Sasebo, we have as many as nine different LANs" (local area networks)—navy.mil, pacodcdeea.edu and nyhko.mcnavy.mil, among others. The idea, he said, is to simplify it all that.

When completed, the new ONE-NET potentially would affect more than 41,000 users across three distinct theaters: Europe, the Middle East and the Far East.

"Networking technicians started work on a Base Level Information Infrastructure, or BIII, which is providing some of the same features that ONE-NET supports," Roe said.

"That's why you see more and more use of the 'sasebo.navy.mil' domain. ONE-NET will do much the same thing but will include the entire base and be done at each base. And SPAWAR will provide the project's oversight."

Other benefits, Roe said, include employing a single "pipe" for all official Internet users on the bases, which translates into more bandwidth (speed) at network user levels. The higher the bandwidth, the more data that can be transmitted in the same amount of time. It's comparable to the amount of water flowing in a massive river instead of a branch of that river.

ONE-NET also will centralize data and e-mail management, Roe said, "thereby reducing the burden on individual commands to have extensive IT expertise."

For the Europe and the Far East theaters, much of the infrastructure is in place. Eric Markland, a consultant to the Navy on the ONE-NET project, stated in the news report.

Those theaters "will transition in various stages over the next 12 months. We expect to start refreshing the first one-third of all PCs with brand new workstations in the new year. We're on a three-year schedule—that is, after three years, every ONE-NET user will have a new PC, then we start over again," Markland stated in the report.

Consolidating overseas computer networks under one central operations center also will boost security, Roe said. "ONE-NET will

More local stories
on Page 10

provide information assurance and information security services to everyone on the network. In the past, commands have set up their own networks and connections without security services such as firewalls."

And ONE-NET should make staying in touch easier. Maintaining contact with colleagues can be difficult "since those of us in the Navy tend to move somewhere else every few years," Roe said. "This will make it much easier to find the current correct location and e-mail address of those contacts."

So far, only Naval Support Activity Bahrain has been 100 percent converted to ONE-NET, the report noted.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@strips.osd.mil

Blue Ridge's headcook served with many honors

Culinary specialist who fed the Clintons expands his skills as Navy chef

By JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

Petty Officer 1st Class Jonathan C. Villanueva told you what foods the Clintons eat for dinner.

He's fed the prime ministers of England, Israel and Brazil as well as public and private dignitaries, stumbling upon the dietary restrictions of Apple cofounder Steve Jobs, a vegan.

As the former presidential chef at Camp David, Md., Villanueva brings a great menu of skills to his current job, leading petty officer for the Flag Mess aboard USS Blue Ridge.

"It was a very demanding job," he recalled of cooking at Camp David, the presidential retreat. "You really had to know what you were doing. There's no room for error."

He learned mealtime had to adapt to the president's chaotic schedule and if dinner were delayed long enough, the cooks would dump the old dinner and start anew.

After four years with the president, the culinary specialist moved on, landing in 2000 on the shores of Yokosuka to serve in the Flag Mess, where he feeds and serves the commander of the 7th Fleet and his staff—a much easier endeavor by comparison, he noted.

The 31-year-old from Hawaii arrived at a time of flux, when ship's staff was updating the mess—refurbishing the dining room, augmenting menus and even changing the uniforms worn by the staff.

"The admiral wanted the 7th Fleet to shine," Villanueva recalled.



JULIANA GITTLER/Stars and Stripes

Petty Officer 1st Class Jonathan Villanueva, a culinary specialist aboard the USS Blue Ridge, is the leading petty officer for the Flag Mess—the admiral's dining area.

He helped create new menus, adding Mediterranean and fusion styles.

To improve his skills, Villanueva this summer attended a Thai cooking institute, which taught him 285 essential Thai recipes and earned him the title of Certified Chef de Cuisine in Thai cooking.

He learned about the program after meeting the Thai Chef's Association's president, whom Villanueva invited for a tour of the Blue Ridge on a stop in Thailand in 2001.

That mentor also nominated Villanueva for a world-class culinary honor, and last month, he learned he was knighted a Chef des Rotisseurs by Chaine des Rotisseurs, a medieval-era French culinary association.

"I was speechless," he said. "The honor attests his abilities preparing food, managing flavor—and a kitchen. 'You have to know what you're doing,'" he said.

When Villanueva joined the Navy, he didn't plan to cook. He chose the job since it offered a less-onerous work schedule than some shipboard jobs and gave a great perk: free food.

As an undersigned sailor living in San Diego, eating out could eat up his budget. Mess specialists, as they were called, at least had good food.

He began as an attendant, washing dishes.

"It's almost like starting in a restaurant," he said.

He learned under a tough chief petty officer, who once gave him the task of perfecting potato garnishes, on his own.

"He just sat me down with a whole bag of potatoes."

Cooking came naturally to Villanueva. Growing up, his family usually ate at home, enjoying his mother's cooking. In Hawaii he learned about foods from around Asia, which would have a long-lasting effect on his culinary pursuits.

Villanueva said he still enjoys cooking after a decade as a Navy chef, and adds that it has had a positive influence in his life.

"When you learn how to bake you become very patient," he said.

Especially on a ship with hundreds relying on him. "It comes out right or you don't sleep."

His career and accomplishments have instilled a work ethic he believes helps him succeed in the hottest of kitchens.

He was nominated to work at Camp David by his superiors because of that work ethic—after becoming junior sailor of the year in 1994 of his Destroyer Squadron in San Diego, earning a Navy Achievement Medal.

"I believe hard work pays off in the long run," he added. "Especially when you know no one is watching you."

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@strips.osd.mil

Second strong quake in 8 days rattles Japan

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A strong earthquake shook northern Japan late Monday, prompting authorities to briefly warn of a threat of a small tsunami wave along the country's northeastern shore. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

Japan's Meteorological Agency said the magnitude-7.0 quake, which struck off the coast of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido at 11:15 p.m., was centered about 31 miles beneath the ocean floor.

The agency quickly issued a tsunami warning for the eastern shores of Hokkaido's Pacific coastal area, instructing residents to flee to higher ground and avoid ports and coasts. Tsunami are potentially dangerous waves triggered by seismic or volcanic activity.

The agency had forecast that a wave up to 20 inches tall was headed for Kushiro, Nemuro, Akkeshi and other cities. Less than an hour later, however, the warning was lifted, after the agency determined that any waves were unlikely to cause damage.

It wasn't clear if the waves had reached Japan's shore.

Public broadcaster NHK showed footage of an office in Nemuro city, about 55 miles northwest of Tokyo, shaking for about 30 seconds.

In nearby Akkeshi, where the tremor hit hardest, some residents reported items falling off shelves, said town official Masayasu Tanabe.

Police said there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

Train services in eastern Hokkaido were immediately disrupted by inspections, and homes in some areas lost power, NHK said.

Monday's quake was the second sizable one to strike Hokkaido in the past week. On Nov. 29, a powerful earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 struck Hokkaido, injuring 24 people, swaying buildings and triggering a small tsunami wave that reached the shore.

Canyon ambush causes confusion, firefight

With Tillman's platoon divided, the repair convoy comes under attack, creating chaos

BY STEVE COLL
The Washington Post

In part one, Spc. Pat Tillman's platoon was divided in half in Afghanistan. Serial One, which included Tillman and platoon commander Lt. David Uthlaut, was headed toward their objective, the village of Manah. Serial Two, led by Sgt. Greg Baker and including Tillman's younger brother Kevin, was transporting a disabled Humvee to the highway for repairs.

Sgt. Greg Baker, a young and slightly built Ranger approaching the end of his enlistment, commanded the heaviest-armed vehicle in Serial Two, just behind the jingal truck. Baker's men wielded the platoon's only .50-caliber machine gun, plus an M-240B machine gun, an M-249 squad automatic weapon and three M-16 carbines. Baker's truck would do the heaviest shooting if there were any attack. Two of his gunners had never seen combat before.

Baker declined to comment for these articles. A second gunner in his vehicle, Trevor Alders, also declined to discuss the incident.

Kevin Tillman also was assigned to Serial Two. He manned an MK19 gun in the trailing vehicle, well behind Baker.

Pat Tillman's serial, with Uthlaut in command, soon turned into a steep and narrow canyon, passed through safely and approached Manah as planned.

Behind them, Serial Two abruptly started down a different road, then stopped. The Afghan tow truck driver said he couldn't navigate the pitted road. He suggested they turn around and head back the same route that Serial One had taken. After Serial Two passed Manah, the group could circle around to the designated highway.

Serial Two's leader, the platoon sergeant, agreed. There was no radio communication between the two serials about this change in plans.

At 6:34 p.m. Serial Two, with about 17 Rangers in six vehicles, entered the narrow canyon and the Serial One had left.

When he heard the first explosion, the platoon sergeant thought one of his vehicles had struck a land mine or a roadside bomb. They had been in the canyon only a minute. In his machine gun-laden truck, Greg Baker also thought somebody had hit a mine. He and his men jumped out of their vehicle. Baker looked up at the sheer canyon walls. The canyon was five to 10 yards across at



Pat Tillman Sr., father of Pat Tillman, speaks during a memorial service for Cpl. Tillman in San Jose, Calif., on May 3. Tillman was killed during a reaction to an ambush that resulted in friendly fire while serving in Afghanistan in April.

its narrowest. "I noticed rocks falling," he recalled in a statement, and "then I saw the second and third mortar rounds hit." He could hear, too, the rattle of enemy small-arms fire.

It was not a bomb — it was an ambush. They were trapped in the worst possible place: the kill zone of an ambush. Baker and his men had dismounted their vehicles. Worse, when they scrambled back and tried to move, they discovered that the lumbering Afghan tow truck in their serial was stalled, blocking their exit.

Baker "ran up and grabbed" the driver and his Afghan interpreter and "threw them in the truck and started to move," as he recalled. "He fired up the canyon walls until he ran out of ammunition. Then he jumped from the tow truck, ran back to his vehicle and reloaded. When the tow truck stopped again, Baker shouted at his own driver to move around it."

Finally freed, Baker's heavily armed Humvee raced out of the ambush canyon, its machine guns pounding fire.

Ahead of them, parked outside a small village near Manah, Uthlaut heard an explosion. From his position he "could not see the enemy or make an adequate assessment of the situation," so he ordered his men to move toward the firing.

Uthlaut designated Pat Tillman as one of three fire team leaders and ordered him to join other

Rangers "to press the fight."

Uthlaut tried to raise Serial Two on his radio. But he couldn't get through — the high canyon walls blocked radio signals.

Tillman moved down the slope with other Rangers and "into a position where he could engage the enemy," the sergeant recalled. With Tillman was a young Ranger and a bearded Afghan militia fighter who was part of the 2nd Platoon's traveling party.

A Ranger nearby watched Tillman take cover. "I remember not liking his position," he recalled. "I had just seen a red tracer come up over us... which immediately struck me as being a M240 tracer." At that time the issue of friendly fire began turning over in his mind.

Several of Serial Two's Rangers said later that as they shot their way out of the canyon, they had no idea where their comrades in Serial One might be.

As they pulled alongside the ridge, the gunners poured a barrage of hundreds of rounds into the area Tillman and other members of Serial One had taken up positions. Army investigators later concluded.

Yet not everyone in Baker's convoy was confused. The driver of Baker's vehicle or the one behind him — the records are not clear — pulled free of the ambush canyon and quickly recognized the parked U.S. Army vehicles of Serial One ahead of him.

The driver shouted twice: "We have friendlies on top!" Then he screamed "No!" The soldier yelled several more times to cease fire, he recalled. "No one heard me."

Up on the ridge, Tillman and Rangers around him began to wave their arms and shout. They only attracted more fire from Baker's vehicle.

"They couldn't hear us," he recalled. "I just stopped the friendly contact for a few moments," the Ranger recalled.

Suddenly he saw the attacking

Humvee move into "a better position to fire on us." He heard a new machine gun burst and hit the ground, praying, as Pat Tillman fell.

By now Baker's truck had pulled past the ridge and had come into plain sight of Serial One's U.S. vehicles. In the village behind Tillman's ridge, Uthlaut and his radio operator had been pinned down by the streams of fire pouring from Baker's vehicle. Both were eventually hit by what they assumed was machine gun fire.

The platoon sergeant jumped out and began searching for Tillman, angry that nobody seemed to know what was happening. He found the lieutenant sitting near a wall of the village, dropped down beside him and demanded to know what he was doing. "At that point I spotted the blood around his mouth" and realized there were casualties — and that Uthlaut was one of them, wounded but still conscious.

Second in a series

On the ridge the young Ranger nearest Pat Tillman screamed, "Oh my [expletive] God!" again and again, as one of his comrades recalled.

The Ranger beside Tillman had been lying flat as Tillman initially called out for a cease-fire. Then Tillman went silent as the firing continued. Now the young Ranger saw a "river of blood" coming from Tillman's position. He got up, looked at Tillman, and saw that "his head was gone."

Seventeen minutes after Serial Two had entered the canyon, 2nd Platoon reported that its forces "were no longer in contact," as a Ranger-appointed investigator later put it. It was not clear how or later who the Afghan attackers spotted by half a dozen Rangers in both serials had been, or whether any were killed.

Nine minutes later, a regiment log shows, the platoon requested a medevac helicopter and reported two soldiers killed in action, including Pat Tillman, 27.

Kevin Tillman declined to be interviewed for these stories and was not asked by Ranger investigators to provide sworn statements. But according to other statements and sources familiar with the investigation, Kevin was initially asked to take up guard duty on the outskirts of the shooting scene.

It would take almost five more weeks — and a fast-drafted off-ceremony, a Silver Star award and a news release, and a public memorial attended by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Jake Plummer and newsmen Maria Shriver — for the Rangers or the Army to acknowledge to Kevin Tillman, his family or the public that Pat Tillman had been killed by his own men.

Tomorrow: The Army investigates — and protests — its own.
Washington Post staff writer Josh White contributed to this report.

Christian Ministries Far East

Pastor Charles A. Hall



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2 Corinthians 3:17

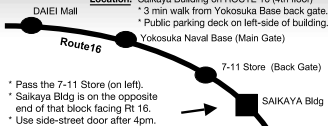
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GIs who refused mission offered Article 15s

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq—None of the soldiers from the 343rd Quartermaster Company who refused to go on a convoy mission in October will face a court-martial, unless an individual soldier requests one.

Tested, the 23 soldiers from the Rock Hill, S.C., Army Reserve unit will face Article 15 non-judicial punishments or other administrative actions, said Maj. Richard Spiegel, a spokesman for the 13th Corps Support Command, the parent headquarters of the 343rd.

The final five cases were decided last week after the conclusion of an investigation into the Oct. 13 incident to determine if the soldiers' actions violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The other 18 involved all those to receive nonjudicial punishment and the military is not required to release what punishments were meted out.

"After consulting with a lawyer, the soldiers can proceed with the Article 15 or demand a court-martial," said Spiegel.

At the time, the soldiers refused to drive fuel and water

Nonjudicial punishment for disobeying orders not enough, say some comrades

trucks from Tallil Air Base, their home in southern Iraq, to Taji, a base north of Baghdad. After the incident, an Army statement said the soldiers "raised some valid concerns."

Soldiers refused the orders because not all of the vehicles were armored, some vehicles were in poor condition and the route, known as Main Supply Route Tampa, was rife with ambushes, roadside bombs or both according to military and news reports in October.

Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers, commander of 13th COSCOM, immediately ordered a stand-down of the unit for a safety and maintenance check. He also asked for two investigations: One to determine if the UCMJ had been violated, and one to determine if there was a systemic problem.

The result of the second investigation, done by 13th COSCOM officials, could not be released until the other legal process had been completed, said Spiegel, citing the Privacy Act for soldiers involved.

The unit's company commander, whose name has not been released, was relieved of duty following the incident "at her request," Spiegel said. None of the soldiers who refused the order have been identified as well.

Under an Article 15, a soldier faces a possible combination of penalties, including: A reduction to the lowest rank for specialists and below or reduction by one rank for sergeants and staff sergeants; extra duty for up to 45 days; and forfeiture of a half-month's pay for two months.

Spiegel declined to speculate on why none of the soldiers will face a court-martial.

Refusing an order during war time could have been considered mutiny and is punishable by death or prison, according to the UCMJ.

"There was a full, complete investigation into what happened," he said. "Based on that investigation, the other legal process had been completed, said Spiegel, citing the Privacy Act for soldiers involved. She has seen all the facts.

This is what she felt was appropriate."

The group received an outpouring of support from family in the States and from some stationed in Iraq and Kuwait.

"There are troops who support you and believe you did the right thing," one soldier in Kuwait in had said in Stars and Stripes. "You took a stand, not just for yourselves, but for every member of the military."

Others said they understood why the soldiers refused the order, but, at the time, questioned their methods.

Others who perform the same duty as those in the 343rd thought the punishment should have been harsher.

"I feel that's quite unfortunate," said Sgt. Hans Rensdorf of the 655th Transportation Company, also a reserve unit, when told the soldiers would not face courts-martial. "Mission first. (The soldiers' actions) were totally un-military. You're given a mission, you've got to do the mission."

His colleague in the unit based at Camp Cedar in Iraq and from Memphis, Tenn., agreed.

"We have a job to do," said Sgt. Alex Buchsachner. "Saying, 'No, we're not going to do that mission' should be more than an Article 15."

He said his company has driven at that same route many times without armed vehicles.

"It's still one mission, one fight," he said.

The process now is in the hands of the soldiers who must decide if they will accept the nonjudicial punishment or take it to a court-martial, Spiegel said.

If they face the Article 15 hearing, Spiegel said, soldiers will be allowed to have witnesses in their behalf and plead their case.

The unit went back to work Nov. 11 and all the soldiers are back on the job, Spiegel said.

"All the soldiers are back to full duty," he said. "Some of them were moved to other units in the battalion. That was done to preserve the integrity of the investigation."

The unit, he said, is back to performing its mission of delivering fuel and water.

"(They've been doing an exemplary job, no issues," Spiegel said.

Ron Jensen at: jensen@starb.strips.osd.mil



Graner

Military judge rules jury pool not tainted

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas—A military judge ruled Monday that statements by President Bush and top military leaders about alleged Abu Ghraib abuses do not appear specific enough to taint the jury pool for next month's trial of a reputed ringleader in the case.

But Col. James Pohl, the judge, said he might reconsider his ruling if it becomes clear that prospective jurors may have been influenced to the degree that Spc. Charles Gran-

er may not get a fair trial.

Defense attorney Guy Womack tried to persuade Pohl that Bush, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and high-ranking military officials proclaimed Graner guilty of abuses at Abu Ghraib and made it impossible to find an impartial jury.

At various times and venues last spring, the president called the alleged incidents "abhorrent" acts for which those found guilty would be punished, while Rumsfeld referred to "terrible activities" at Abu Ghraib.

"They all heard the state-

ments) and it was their chain of command saying it," said Womack. "It would be heard for the (jurors) to completely put that out of their minds." But Womack conceded that the word "guilty" was never used in any of the statements in question, nor was Graner ever mentioned by name by the high-ranking officials.

The Abu Ghraib scandal came to light last spring with the discovery of digital photographs depicting physical abuse and sexual humiliation of detainees.

In one of those photos, Graner was shown giving a thumbs-up

sign behind a pile of naked Iraqi prisoners. In another, he is seen cackling his fist as if to punch a hooded detainee. He has been accused of jumping on prisoners, stomping their hands and feet, and punching a detainee in the head hard enough to knock him out. Womack says Graner was ordered by higher-ranking soldiers and other government agents to go rough on detainees to soften them up for interrogators.

Graner, an Army reservist from Uniontown, Pa., is scheduled for trial at Fort Hood beginning Jan. 7. He sat quietly beside Womack during the 2½-hour hearing.

Rumsfeld says he's staying through Iraq war

BY ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld expressed hope Monday, but did not explicitly predict, that American troops would be out of Iraq by the end of President Bush's second term.

Rumsfeld, at 72 the oldest defense secretary ever, ticked off a list of reasons he agreed to Bush's request last week to stay in his post, including good health and a good working relationship with the president. He also said he looked forward to continuing work on unfinished Pentagon projects.

"We've got a lot of work that's well along, but some of it's not finished," he said in an in-flight interview with reporters flying with

him to Kuwait and later to Afghanistan for Tuesday's inauguration of President Hamid Karzai. Rumsfeld said he also planned to visit India on this trip.

Rumsfeld would not say whether he plans to remain the full four years of Bush's presidency, but in response to a question about how long U.S. troops would be in Iraq he seemed to suggest that he might.

When a reporter asked whether Rumsfeld believed the troops would be gone before the end of his term, he prefaced his answer by saying he took that to mean four years. Then he said that during his first four years in the Bush administration he had been careful not to make predictions about how long U.S. troops would have to remain in a given country, not

ing they stayed far longer in Bosnia than the Clinton administration had predicted when they first went in.

Then he added, speaking of whether troops would be out of Iraq within four years: "I would certainly hope so," he said. In the case, hope that to be the case. But the answer to your question is not that. The answer is the president has said they stay as long as they are needed and not a day longer."

The Pentagon announced last week that it was increasing the number of troops in Iraq from 138,000 to 170,000 in January to bolster security in advance of the Iraqi elections.

More broadly, the kind of changes Rumsfeld has in mind for the Pentagon go beyond a re-vamping of policies, programs and procedures.

Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

日本語もあります YBC services are interpreted in Japanese
REACHING THE MILITARY AND ANOTHER PERSON AT A TIME

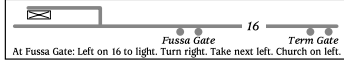
Yokota Christian Academy	M-F
Sunday	
Early Service	0830
Sunday School	1000
Morning Service	1100
Evening Service	1800
Monday	
Faith Bible Institute	1830
Tuesday	
Soul Winning & Visitation	1830
Wednesday	
Evening Service & Prayer Mtg	1900
Patch & Pee Wee Clubs	1900

Friday	
Awana Club	1900
Monthly	
Mens Prayer Breakfast	1st Sat
Ladies Meeting	1st Sat

- Dec. 4th: All Christmas Banquet (Sat. 6:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 5th: YBC Christmas Program
- Dec. 5th 5:30: Youth "Missions" at "Circles in the Sky"
- Dec. 12th: New Year's Eve Party, Holiday Match, "Christmas at Home"

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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

Troops battle gunmen on busy Baghdad street

Insurgents target Iraqis helping U.S.

By PAUL GARWOOD
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Brazen gunmen firing automatic weapons roamed Baghdad's streets Monday within blocks of the country's most fortified facilities, including the U.S. Embassy and the headquarters of Iraq's interim government. Five more American troops were killed in volatile Anbar province.

A dawn attack on a domestic oil pipeline supplying fuel from northern Iraq to Baghdad and clashes that killed three militants in the country's turbulent west underlined the security difficulties ahead of Jan. 30 national elections.

The heavily armed insurgents have been emboldened by a spate of attacks across Iraq that have claimed more than 80 lives in recent days, mostly Iraqis working for the coalition or Iraqi national security forces.

Taking their fight to Baghdad on Monday, militants stroked the capital's streets, saying they were hunting for Iraqis working for U.S.-led forces.

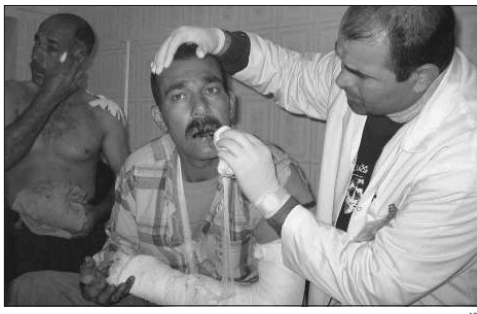
On Haifa Street, witnesses said the gunmen killed an Iraqi employed by coalition authorities. They then moved on foot and battled U.S. troops just hundreds of yards from the Green Zone, a heavily guarded compound where American and Iraqi forces protect government officials, diplomats and private contractors.

By midday, the attackers had scattered. The U.S. military said it had no details.

Haifa Street has been the site of previous battles between insurgents and coalition forces. Insurgents, their overwhelming strength, U.S.-led troops and Iraqi security forces have yet to secure areas surrounding the country's most vital facilities.

U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police continued to be targeted by insurgents. On Sunday, attackers used machine guns to kill 17 Iraqi civilians employed by the U.S. military in Tikrit, shooting them as they stepped off a bus to work at a weapons destruction dump.

The Ansar al-Sunnah Army, one of Iraq's most feared terror groups, claimed responsibility



Medics treat Iraqi policeman Ahmed Ali in Baquba, Iraq, on Monday. The officer was wounded Monday when gunmen tried to assassinate an Iraqi police colonel in Baquba.

bility for the Tikrit attack in a statement on the group's Web site.

The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force said three U.S. soldiers were killed Sunday and two Marines were killed on Friday in fighting in western Anbar province, a region that includes the battleground cities of Fallujah and Ramadi. More than 1,270 U.S. troops have died since the Iraq war began in March 2003.

Marines have led major operations in the region, particularly in Fallujah, to destroy a network of Iraqi and other Arab fighters blamed for attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces and the kidnapping and killing of Western hostages.

The violence persisted despite offensives intended to suppress guerrillas ahead of elections.

In Washington, President Bush met Iraq's interim president, Ghazi al-Yawer, and told reporters it was impossible to "guarantee 100 percent security" in Iraq. Bush pledged the United States would do everything it could to make Iraq's elections as safe as possible.

Al-Yawer, a Sunni Muslim, expressed resolve to defeat the insurgents, saying "victory is not only possible, it is a fact."

Sunnis represent one-fifth of Iraq's nearly 26 million people and wielded the power under Saddam Hussein. They fear the election will give Shiites, with 60 percent of the population, an overpowering grip on the nation. U.S. and Iraqi officials are concerned that a boycott by Sunnis could undermine the legitimacy of a new government.

Police said an Iraqi translator working for U.S. forces in Ramadi, Basbar Mohammed, was kidnapped by militants Sunday. Gunmen in Baquba, north of Baghdad, killed a child Monday in a failed attempt to assassinate police Col. Jalil Yassin and his two bodyguards. They were wounded.

U.S. forces hit back in Haditha, a rural Anbar province town 140 miles northwest of Baghdad, on Monday, killing three insurgents and wounding four, according to Dr. Bassem Izaaldeen of Haditha Hospital.

American forces also announced the arrest of 42 suspected militants Sunday and early Monday in the northern cities of Mosul, Beji, Tikrit and Samarra.

Associated Press writer Mariam Fatur contributed to this story from Baghdad.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,271 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 988 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Friday. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not update its numbers over the weekend.

The AP count is even higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,133 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 879 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two U.S. soldiers died Saturday after coming under fire during a patrol in Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Pfc. George D. Harrison, 22, Knoxville, Tenn., died Tuesday in Mosul when his vehicle came under fire, assigned to the 293rd Military Police Company, 3rd Military Police Battalion (Provisional), 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Commanders say America is gaining ground against rebels

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — A series of large military offensives over the past few months culminating in the battle for Fallujah have given U.S. military commanders in Baghdad a sense of having gained ground against Iraq's fierce insurgency, but they predict no easy victory in pressing the attack and remain particularly concerned about an increasing campaign of intimidation.

Indeed, senior officers say they regard the militants as still well armed and well financed, and likely to avoid trying to mass anywhere again after losing their primary stronghold in Fallujah. The officers say they expect the insurgents to engage in more decentralized operations and sporadic attacks while stepping up threats and violence against Iraqis who serve in the government or the security forces, or who otherwise cooperate with Americans.

"We do believe their tactics are

going to change some," said Army Brig. Gen. John DePretis III, the top U.S. military intelligence officer in Iraq. "They will probably not mass forces again. They'll fight in small teams. We get some sense that they're thinking of adopting more guerrilla-type tactics — small teams, hit-and-run."

The dispersion and guerrilla tactics of the militants, U.S. officers say, will draw U.S. forces into more classic counterinsurgency operations characterized by focused raids, along the lines of the recent sweep through the northern part of Babul province led by U.S. Marines.

Such troop-intensive operations are the reason behind the decision announced last week to boost U.S. forces in Iraq to 150,000.

But while the U.S. military has plans to pursue militants as they attempt to regroup, commanders appear frustrated by their inability to defeat the intimidation.

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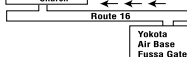
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9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
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Pastor James A. Jr.
Monica Saffold



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Parking for all other visitors will be made available at the church



Smoke rises after an explosion in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, on Monday after Islamic militants attacked the heavily guarded U.S. Consulate in Jiddah with explosives and machine guns in a gunbattle that left at least nine people dead and several others injured.

U.S. Consulate attacked

Militants strike guarded facility in Saudi Arabia, killing at least nine people in three-hour assault

BY FAIZA SALEH AMBAH
The Associated Press

JIDDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Militants lobbing explosives forced their way into the heavily guarded U.S. consulate in Jiddah on Monday before Saudi security forces stormed the consulate and fought a gunbattle to end the attack. Nine people were killed.

The bold assault, the worst since May, demonstrated that Saudi Arabia's crackdown on al-Qaida is still far from successful.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Saudi officials blamed a "deviant" group — the government's way of identifying al-Qaida extremists it holds responsible for a string of terror strikes the past two years.

President Bush said the attack showed "terrorists are still on the move," trying to intimidate Amer-

icans and force the United States to withdraw from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Five consulate employees, all non-Americans, were killed and another four injured, the State Department said. Three of the five attackers also died in the shootout and the other two were captured and wounded, the Saudi Interior Ministry said.

A Saudi security official, quoted on Saudi television station al-Ikhabariya, said one of the wounded attackers later died in custody.

The unidentified official also gave the nationalities of the victims of the attack: One Yemeni, a Sudanese, a Filipino, a Pakistani and a Sri Lankan.

He said 13 people were injured, including five Saudi security men.

Saudi security officials initially said four Saudi officers also died in the clash, but Interior Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen.

Mansour al-Turki later told The Associated Press that no officers were killed. He said one was seriously injured.

The attack prompted the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh to urge thousands of Americans in the country — many of whom already live under extraordinarily tight security precautions — "to exercise utmost security precautions."

In Washington, Adel al-Jubeir, foreign affairs adviser to Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, said officials suspected an attack was coming.

"We had indications that led us to increase the level of alert and to beef up security in Jiddah and in other areas," said al-Jubeir,

U.S. Consulate hit

Islamic militants throw explosives at the gate of the U.S. Consulate in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, Monday, then forced their way into the building.



Source: ESRI

noting the government was at a higher threat level.

He said the nature of the attack — the weapons used and the high-profile Western target — indicate it may have been carried out by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, a group that has claimed responsibility for other attacks in Saudi Arabia.

"We could hear the gunshots outside, but we didn't know what was going on," said one consulate employee who rushed to the safe area, who spoke to The Associated Press by telephone, but asked that his name not be used. "They were heavy at times and not so heavy at other times."

The attacks — immediately praised on militant Islamic Web sites, showed that extremists in Saudi Arabia are still capable of carrying off sophisticated strikes despite a sharp government crackdown.

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An Afghan police of Kabul International airport salutes to foreign guests at the main road of Kabul airport on Monday. Afghan and international forces laid a security ring around Kabul as dignitaries traveled from around the world for Hamid Karzai inauguration.

Security tight in Kabul ahead of inauguration

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan and international forces laid a security ring around Kabul on Monday as dignitaries traveled from around the world for the inauguration of Hamid Karzai as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president.

In their biggest operation since the October election, which Karzai won in a landslide, police and troops cordoned off the route from the city's battle-scarred airport to the presidential palace, where the U.S.-backed leader was to be sworn in Tuesday.

Trucks and cars with license plates from beyond Kabul were turned away at the city limits. NATO armored vehicles mounted extra patrols, and American helicopters scoured the mountains that encircle the capital.

"We are very aware that this is yet another opportunity for insurgent activity to take place while the international community's eyes are again focused on Afghanistan," NATO spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Ken MacKillop said.

Karzai's installation will crown a three-year drive to stabilize Afghanistan since a U.S. bombing campaign drove out the former ruling Taliban for harboring

al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

Insurgents continue to harass U.S. and Afghan forces across a broad swath of the south and east. American commanders say they expect to keep their force strength at about 18,000 at least until after parliamentary elections slated for the spring.

But Karzai has said the country's booming drug economy, which accounts for an estimated one-third of national income, is now a bigger threat, and will be the top priority of his fresh five-year term.

Karzai is to unveil within days a new Cabinet, which he has promised will be more effective than the uneasy coalition of anti-Taliban leaders who critics say did little to rebuild destroyed ministries or prevent corruption.

After rebels failed to make good on a threat to seriously disrupt the Oct. 9 vote, and American and Afghan officials offered many an amnesty, there is even speculation that Taliban-linked figures may resurface in the new government.

However, officials remain on guard against what U.S. commanders describe as a "strategic surprise" in the shape of a spectacular attack by militant die-hards or al-Qaida cells on Tuesday's ceremony. Kabul has seen four deadly suicide attacks this year.

Paper cranes fail to stop Thai violence

BY RUNGRAWE C.
PINYORAT
The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — A massive airdrop of paper birds intended to promote peace failed to halt violence in Thailand's restive south, with a spate of new attacks Monday that targeted soldiers and local officials.

The bombings, shootings and arson attacks came hours after Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Sunday's airdrop of nearly 100 million Japanese-style origami cranes over the predominantly Muslim region had achieved an "enormous, positive psychological effect" toward peace.

On Monday morning a bomb was detonated at a rest stop for patrolling soldiers. Four troops were wounded, one seriously, in

Narathiwat province's Ra-ngae district.

Another bomb exploded nearby by hours later, seriously injuring an assistant district chief as he parked his car. The official, Pricha Nuamnuay, 38, was in the area to instruct security forces to conduct thorough searches for explosive devices, police said.

A third bomb found later in a garbage bin was defused by police.

More than 540 people have died this year in the southernmost provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala — the only Muslim-majority regions in Buddhist-dominated Thailand — in violence blamed on Islamic separatists.

The government came under strong criticism after 85 Muslim demonstrators died on Oct. 25, including 78 who suffocated or were crushed when soldiers bound and stacked them on top of

each other in military trucks.

Encouraged by the government, Thais across the country folded more than 130 million birds to promote peace. Approximately 30 million will be delivered by land.

While meant as a morale-booster for victims of violence, Sunday's origami airdrop resembled a treasure hunt, with prizes offered for specially marked birds. People could trade lots of them in for items ranging from cartons of milk to bicycles.

Hours after Thaksin spoke, the owner of a tea shop in Pattani was slain by gunmen, grenades were thrown at the homes of two policemen and arsonists set fire to a school in Yala and a teacher's house in Narathiwat.

Also, Pattani Deputy Governor Soonthorn Rittipakdee died in the hospital Monday after being shot



Thai Muslim children show some of the 100 million folded paper cranes that fluttered down Sunday from a B-67 transport plane in the skies over Narathiwat province, 708 miles south of Bangkok, Thailand.

on Nov. 23, when he went to inspect the scene of an attack.

Soonthorn originally was believed to have been ambushed, which would have made him the highest-ranking official to be

killed by insurgents this year. But questions were raised about whether he might have been accidentally shot by a government security officer, and the case remains unresolved.

9/11 libel award

LONDON — Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Britain accepted substantial libel damages and a public apology Monday from a magazine that had claimed he was directly responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Prince Turki Al-Faisal filed suit in London's High Court against Hatchette Filipacchi Associates, publishers of "Paris Match," over an article published in October 2003. The amount of damages was not revealed.

Al-Faisal's lawyer, Rupert Earle, said the article quoted French writer Laurent Murawiec, who described Al-Faisal as having set up the al-Qaida terror network and using it for military purposes.

Lost N. Korea crew returned

SEOUL — South Korea returned two North Korean crewmen to their communist country Monday after their wooden boat drifted into southern waters, military officials said.

The half-ton boat was pulled by strong tides, and South Korea sent the crewmen back to the North after they told investigators they wanted to return home, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

From The Associated Press

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Happy Hanukkah to troops



Houston Cub Scout mother Dianne Zomper poses with a menorah and members of Congregation Emanu El's Pack 1190, who sent care packages to Jewish soldiers serving overseas. Zomper's son, Mitchell, along with other scouts prepared packages with candles, menorahs and dreidels to send to troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

Gay ex-servicemembers sue over 'don't ask, don't tell'

BY NANCY ZUCKERBROD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Twelve gays expelled from the military because of their sexual orientation filed a legal challenge Monday to the Pentagon's 11-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Boston, cited last year's landmark Supreme Court ruling that overturned state laws making gay sex a crime.

Other courts have upheld the policy, approved by Congress and put in place by the Clinton administration.

However, those decisions came before the 2003 Supreme Court ruling, said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers' Legal Defense Network, which is advising the plaintiffs.

"We think the gay ban can no longer survive constitutionally," he said. "You do not ban an entire class of people just to accommodate prejudice."

Former Lt. J.g. Jen Kopfeinstein of San Diego was dismissed from the Navy after she told her commanding officer she was a lesbian.

Kopfeinstein, a plaintiff in the case, said Monday hiding her identity felt dishonest.

"Today, I'm here to stand up for what is right," she said.

"Don't ask, don't tell" is a horrible policy."

Justin Peacock, a former Coast Guard boatswain's mate from Knoxville, Tenn., and another plaintiff, was discharged after someone reported he was seen holding hands with another man.

"I would love to rejoin, but even if I don't get back in at least I could say I tried to get the policy changed," Peacock said.

Lt. Col. Joe Richard, a Pentagon spokesman, said officials have not seen the lawsuit and therefore could not comment on it.

"Don't ask, don't tell" allows gays and lesbians to serve in the military as long as they don't reveal their sexual orientation and abstain from homosexual activity.

Before that the Pentagon barred homosexuals from military service.

The Supreme Court ruled last year that state laws making homosexual sex a crime were unconstitutional.

That overturned an earlier Supreme Court ruling that had upheld sodomy laws.

Two other lawsuits challenging the policy have been filed since the high court's reversal.

One was brought in California by the Log Cabin Republicans, a political organization for gays. Osburn said that group could face a difficult fight because it was not bringing its suit on behalf of a specific injured party.

He also noted a federal appeals court in California has upheld "don't ask, don't tell," but the appellate court for Boston has not ruled on the issue.

The other suit was filed in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, which generally deals with cases that involve money.

That plaintiff, who was separated from the Army, is seeking to recover his pension and is challenging the ban in the process. Osburn said the court might rule narrowly on the financial claim and not on the constitutionality of the gay members policy.

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Suit contests extended enlistments

WASHINGTON — Eight soldiers are challenging the Army's policy requiring them to serve longer than the terms of their enlistment contracts.

In a lawsuit being filed Monday in federal court, the soldiers are seeking a judge's order requiring the Army to immediately release them from service.

"The Army made an agreement with me and I expected them to honor it," said David Qualls, one of the plaintiffs. He signed up in July 2003 for a one-year stint in the Arkansas National Guard but has been told he will remain on active duty in Iraq until next year.

Under the Pentagon's stop-loss program, the Army can extend enlistments during war or national emergencies as a way to promote continuity and cohesiveness.

The policy, invoked in June, could keep tens of thousands of personnel in the military beyond their expected departure. The policy was also used during the buildup to the 1991 Gulf War.

The lawsuit contends the policy is a breach of the service contract because it extends the length of service without a soldier's consent. It also alleges the contracts were misleading because they make no reference to the policy, said Staughton Lynd, an attorney for the soldiers.

Romania wants Marine suspected in car wreck

BUCHAREST, Romania — The Romanian government has requested that a U.S. Marine return to Bucharest for questioning in a Friday night auto accident that killed a popular Romanian musician.

Staff Sgt. Christopher R. VanGoethem, 31, commander of the security detachment that guards the U.S. embassy in Bucharest, is suspected of crashing an embassy-owned SUV into a taxi, killing Teofil Peter, a veteran rock musician and producer, Romanian police said.

Breath tests indicated that VanGoethem had been drinking alcohol, Romanian police told The Associated Press.

VanGoethem, who was not injured, was transported some time after the accident to Marine Security Group's Company H headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany, a Marine spokesman said on Monday. The spokesman added that VanGoethem was likely to return to his battalion headquarters in Quantico, Va.

But the Romanian Foreign Ministry said in a statement Sunday that it had learned "with consternation" that the Marine had left the country and that it had asked U.S. authorities to bring him back and waive his diplomatic immunity so he could face justice.

The Marine spokesman, Maj. Matthew Morgan of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade of Camp Lejeune, N.C., said the Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating the incident. Morgan said that VanGoethem had not been charged with a crime.

From staff and wire reports

Teen center food drive

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A food drive is under way at the Yokota Teen Center to benefit the Tachikawa Children's Orphanage.

Donations of nonperishable food items may be brought to the center through Dec. 15. Call DSN 225-6793 for more information.

Yokota library story changes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Children's Story Hour at the base library is switching to the second and fourth Monday of each month instead of the second and fourth Tuesday. The change is to take effect at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 13.

Base library officials also have set their "Dial-a-Story" lineup for the month: "Little Red Riding Hood" through Friday; "The Night Before Christmas," Dec. 11-17; "Snowball's Christmas Eve," Dec. 18-24; and "The Visit to Santa Claus Land," Dec. 25-31.

The stories can be heard 24 hours a day by calling DSN 225-2004.

Guam troops return

Thirty-seven Air Force Reserve members are to return to Guam on Wednesday after a yearlong deployment to different Southwest Asia locations, the Pacific Daily News reported.

The group was sent to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., on Jan. 31 and later dispersed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq; Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. The reservists belong to the 4th Aerial Port Squadron, which ships cargo such as food and munitions.

Guam EPA swim warning

Guam's Environmental Protection Agency and Waterworks Authority have issued separate warnings about swimming at Gun Beach and Tanguisson Beach after a sewage pump station malfunctioned and overflowed in the Harmon cliff-line area near Two Lovers' Point, the Pacific Daily News reported.

Neither is closed to the public, but the advisories were issued after about 6 million to 7 million gallons spilled into a nearby basin, Guam Waterworks Authority general manager David Cradick told the paper. Guam's EPA, informed Nov. 22, took bacteria samples the following day.

According to the report, six sampling sites for Gun Beach and Tanguisson Beach came back positive last week for coliform, the bacterial indicator for contamination. Ground water flow in the area has been examined thoroughly, an EPA spokesman said. The contaminated water eventually will penetrate the island's limestone foundation and reach the beaches.

Exceptional Sailor party set

Sasebo Naval Base's Exceptional Sailor program is holding its annual community holiday party beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 11 in the Harbor View Club's Lower Sakurarium.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available from Petty Officer 2nd Class Stephen Thaggard at the legal office or from Chief Petty Officer Wendell James at the logistics department.

The party is open to all active-duty personnel, dependents, Japanese master labor contract employees and Japanese civilians with tickets and an escort.

The party includes a buffet and six door prizes including a 19-inch Sony television, an iPod player, a JVC Hi-Fi system, a DVD player, a mini home theater speaker set and a JVC mini shelf CD/radio system.

Call Thaggard at DSN 252-3385 or James at DSN 252-3767 for more information.

Zama winter band concert

About 126 students from the Zama Amer-

Decking the decks



NICHOLAS C. MESSINA/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

From left, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Loreto Lagrisola, Petty Officer 1st Class Jesus P. Malanay and Petty Officer 1st Class Manuel Alas put the final touches on the USS Essex's Christmas tree on Friday. Every year the tree is brought to the mess decks to celebrate the holidays.

ican High School band programs are to perform in the winter band concert at 7 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium.

The free concert is a perennial event but this year, members of the school's beginning band will join those from the concert, symphonic and jazz bands in performing.

Refreshments will be served after the concert.

Christine Anderson will direct.

Cultural celebration potluck

Parents and base community members are invited to a cultural diversity celebration potluck Friday at Yokosuka Middle School.

Participants are asked to bring a dish that highlights Yokosuka's wealth of diversity. The event is planned to encourage parental involvement in the school.

The potluck will feature taiko drummers from Tokyo; salsa and meringue dancers from the base community; middle school dancers and a demonstration on folding obis and bunnos hand painting.

The potluck is to begin at 5 p.m. in the school multipurpose room. Call Barbara Moore at 243-5236 for information.

7th Fleet Band holiday concert

Department of Defense ID cardholders are invited to the free 7th Fleet Band holiday concert Dec. 19 in the Fleet Theater.

The performance, an annual Yokosuka tradition, is to start at 3 p.m. Yokosuka MWR, the sponsor, advises guests to arrive early because seating is limited.

The band will perform a variety of holiday classics and is to host a surprise special guest.

Yokosuka festival of trees

Walk through a winter wonderland at the Festival of Trees this weekend, with holiday trees decorated by base commands.

The trees are to be on display from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 11 and Dec. 12 in Room C-2 of Yokosuka's CFAY Headquarters Auditorium.

The festival also is to feature Santa Claus, musical entertainment, hot chocolate, cookies and juice.

Rock-n-roll Christmas

Yokosuka residents will get an opportunity to experience some musical holiday cheer Dec. 11 when the Holiday Rock-n-Roll road show comes to the base's Negishi housing area.

A band will travel around Negishi, stopping to serve up holiday cheer, refreshments and snacks.

The parade is to run from 5 to 7:30 p.m. around the housing community. In case of rain, it will be in the Negishi Gym.

The event is open to residents, Department of Defense ID holders and guests.

Zama Madrigal dinner show

Tickets are on sale for Zama American High School's Dec. 14 Madrigal Dinner, a re-enactment of a renaissance Christmas feast.

Tickets for the third annual dinner and show are \$12 for adults and \$7 for students. Dinner is to be served at 6:30 p.m.; the concert is to begin at 7:30 p.m. Contact director Ronald Geist at Ronald.Geist@ode.dodea.edu for information.

From staff reports



AP photos

President Bush, far right, and first lady Laura Bush, second right, stand with the 27th annual Kennedy Center honorees at the Kennedy Center in Washington on Sunday night. Pictured from left are: composer and conductor John Williams; soprano Joan Sutherland; actor, producer, writer and director Warren Beatty; singer and composer Elton John; husband-and-wife actors, writers producers and activists Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis.

Kennedy Center honors 6 at star-studded gala

BY JENNIFER FREY

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Itzhak Perlman on violin.

Jack Nicholson in a monologue so funny the audience couldn't stop laughing.

Renee Fleming sending up the sweetest serenade.

And Kid Rock pounding out a tribute to the "Rocket Man" that had both President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney on their feet, clapping to the beat.

Renee Fleming and Kid Rock? "Only at the Kennedy Center," said show producer George Stevens Jr., with wry amusement. "Where else?"

It's the magic of the annual Kennedy Center Honors that a few-hour tribute to a handful of spectacularly gifted performing artists draws a marvelous cross-section of talent from all walks of (super-famous) life. And so it was that the opera diva and he of the explicit lyrics and self-created bad-boy persona took their turns on stage at the Kennedy Center Opera House Sunday night.

Fleming was there to see honoree Warren Beatty, Kid Rock sent to legendary singer-songwriter Elton John. Also being honored were married actors and activists Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, famed soprano Joan Sutherland and award-winning composer John Williams, of "Star Wars" and "E.T." fame.

It was a night for numerous, and thunderous, standing ovations.

There was a little bit of opera, a little bit of theater, a little bit of dance, and a healthy dash of the "Rocket Man's" good old rock 'n' roll. The show is a pastiche, each

segment a nod to the individual honorees' talents and history.

That's why Faye Dunaway — once Bonnie to Beatty's Clyde — was there to introduce the video clip about her old friend; and why Angela Bassett and Courtney B. Vance also married black actors — came to thank Dee and Davis for the example they had set.

And those are only a few of the names who came to honor their forebears and their friends. Audra McDonald was there, and Billy Joel; Steven Spielberg and Robert Downey Jr.; Sean "P. Diddy" Combs and Marilyn Horne.

For Davis and Dee, the first to be honored, there was a gently moving tribute, a tale of great talent but also a great love affair.

They were introduced by Combs, who had long admired Davis — on strict childhood instructions from his mother.

For all the stunning musical performances, though, few could live up to what came simply in the video tribute to Sutherland. Her own "stratospheric high notes" had the audience enraptured, and on its feet before the clip could end.

"We are here to salute you," her friend and colleague Horne said, "and to recall the unforgettable performances you have given us, and to honor the gift that you gave the world: your voice ... your soaring, beautiful, incredible voice." From opera the show took a dizzy turn into the music of movie memories — the music of Williams's films. To the strains of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," Spielberg introduced his frequent collaborator, calling his scores "guaranteed to make you use the whole Klexbox."

"In the end," Spielberg said, "it's not Hollywood he writes for; he writes for all of you."

Perlman played "Schindler's List" to a hush.

The raucousness began, though, once Nicholson took the stage to introduce his long-time running buddy and good pal, Beatty. Actually, a wee bit of raucousness had occurred a bit earlier, when Nicholson made a belated entrance in the Opera House, wearing dark sunglasses and trailing an usher, as a ripple of laughter crossed the audience.

"That ripple became a torrent as Nicholson told tales out of school about Beatty, every other line a laugh."

On his political ambitions: "For years Warren has dreamed of attending these awards. Unfortunately, not exactly as a Kennedy Center honoree, but as the president of the United States." (This prompted Bush and Beatty to look at each other amusedly across their aisle in the balcony.)

The show's climax was the tribute to John, a multi-song extravaganza.

"There are trends and phrases in rock and roll, but Elton John never goes out of style," Robert Downey Jr. said. "His music isn't seasonal; it's perennial. We've passed through New Wave, Punk and the Hair Band Era, but the light that burns from the music of this great 'Rocket Man' never fades."

Joel — John's dear friend and sometime touring partner — was the first to perform, playing piano while belting out "Bennie and the Jets" and "The Bitch Is Back."

And up in the balcony, John rocked back and forth to the music, as Beatty smiled on one side of him, and Dee on the other.



Actors, singers, lawmakers and other notables arrive to celebrate a handful of gifted artists at the 27th annual Kennedy Center Honors celebration Sunday night in Washington. Counterclockwise from above: Honoree Warren Beatty; former presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry; actor Robert Downey Jr.; National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice; and singer Billy Joel with his wife, Kate.



Bush insists Iraq elections will be Jan. 30

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush, on a day of new violence in the Middle East, expressed determination to see Iraq hold elections on Jan. 30 and said they would show that terrorists cannot stop the march of democracy. Interim Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer said a majority of Iraqis want the elections to be held on schedule.

Meeting al-Yawer at the White House, Bush said that a free society in Iraq "will be a major defeat for the terrorists." If terrorists were allowed to stop the election, it would "send a wrong signal to the world and send a wrong signal to the Iraqi people themselves."

Al-Yawer — an influential leader in Sunni Muslim regions of Iraq where the fiercest battles against insurgents have been waged — wants Iraq's Jan. 30 election held on time, but other Sunni leaders want it to be postponed, saying the ongoing violence in these areas would keep people from voting.

"The attacks in Saudi Arabia remind us that the terrorists are still on the move," Bush said. "They're interested in affecting the will of free countries. They want us to leave Saudi Arabia. They want us to leave Iraq."

"They want us to grow timid and weary in the face of their willingness to kill randomly, kill innocent people," Bush said. [Story, Page 7]

The president said the United States would do everything it could to make the elections in Iraq as safe as possible. "You can never guarantee 100 percent security," he said.

Al-Yawer expressed resolve to defeat the insurgents. "Right now we are faced with the armies of darkness," the interim president said. But he said that "victory is not only possible, it is a fact."

Al-Yawer's visit to the White House is seen as a way to persuade Iraq's political minorities not to boycott the ballot.

"I don't know how many Sunnis are going to be open to the message, but in Middle Eastern terms, it's very symbolic to invite somebody into your house from a community you've been fighting with," said James Phillips, a specialist on Iraq and the Middle East at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think-tank. "It shows an openness to some kind of political settlement. It's trying to encourage them [the Sunnis] to include themselves in the power structure — and therefore help weaken the insurgency."



President Bush and interim Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer meet with reporters in the White House in Washington on Monday.



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Supreme Court won't speed up tribunal case

BY GINA HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused Monday to speed up consideration of a challenge to the government's plans to try foreign terror suspects before military tribunals.

Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a Yemeni who was a driver for Osama bin Laden, won his appeal in U.S. District Court. His lawyers want to skip an appeals court and have the Supreme Court decide the legality of the trials planned for Hamdan and potentially hundreds of others classified as

"enemy combatants" who are being held at the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo, Cuba.

The Bush administration told the court there was no legal reason to deal more quickly with Hamdan's appeal, and that justices should let the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit handle the matter first. It has scheduled arguments on March 8.

Hamdan, 34, has denied supporting terrorism. But the government contends he was a member of al-Qaida and has charged him with conspiracy to commit war crimes, murder and terrorism.

Monday's action by the court does not dismiss the appeal.

Justices could still agree to hear the case, but they won't decide until early next year—potentially too late to hold arguments and issue a ruling before the end of the term in late June.

Last week, hundreds of members of the British and European Parliaments encouraged the court to hear the appeal.

U.S. District Judge James Robertson in Washington sided last month with Hamdan and said before anyone goes before a tribunal the government must first determine whether the suspects are

prisoners of war entitled to more legal rights. He also said that the guidelines for the trials must be changed to comply with military justice rules.

The Supreme Court on Monday also:

- Ruled that San Diego officials were justified in firing a policeman who sold sexually explicit videotapes of himself in uniform.

- Passed up a chance to consider if states can ban members of the Ku Klux Klan and other groups from wearing masks at public gatherings.

- Heard arguments in a case that asks whether a black man

was unfairly sentenced to death by a Texas jury stacked with whites.

- Rejected an appeal by the National League of Cities that sought to classify cable-based broadband as a "cable service." That would have entitled cities to charge cable operators a 5 percent local tax.

- Declined to clarify standards for suing employers who rescind health benefits they initially promised in early retirement packages.

- Refused to consider whether a state may bar corrections employees from socializing with prisoners and their families outside of work.

Bush spreads Christmas cheer at White House



President Bush shakes hands with children Monday as he and first lady Laura Bush participate in the Children's Christmas Reception in the East Room of the White House.

Studies suggest lack of sleep increases chance of obesity

BY LEE BOWMAN

Scripts Howard News Service

More evidence has surfaced to explain why not getting enough sleep makes us hungry and more likely to gain weight.

Two new studies, published Monday and Tuesday, show that loss of sleep boosts levels of a hormone that tells us we're hungry, while dropping levels of a hormone that signals the body that we're full and should stop eating.

"Sleep is a major regulator of these two hormones," said Eve Van Cauter, a professor of medicine at the University of Chicago and lead author of one of the studies, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Researchers have noticed that increased obesity among Americans has coincided with less time spent asleep over the past several decades. In 1960, U.S. adults slept an average of more than eight hours a night; by 2002, the average had fallen to less than seven hours. Sleep deficits are also being noted in children and teens. At the same time, in 1960, one in four adults was considered overweight and one in nine was considered obese. Now, two in three are overweight and nearly one in three is obese.

Rat studies have shown that the animals eat more when they're sleep-deprived. And a Columbia University study reported last month that there's a sliding scale of hours slept and obesity risk: people who get only two to four hours a night are 73 percent more likely to be obese than those getting seven or eight hours, while those getting 10 or more hours a night are 11 percent less likely to be obese.

Both Cauter's team and a group led by Dr. Shahrad Taheri at Stanford University (who is now at the University of Bristol in England) focused on the role of two key appetite hormones.

Leptin, a hormone produced by fat cells, gives out signals indicating whether energy reserves are dwindling and if the body needs to consume more calories. Ghrelin, mainly produced by the stomach, is a direct appetite trigger—the more hormone circulating in the blood, the more a person wants to eat.

"We found that people who slept for shorter durations have reduced

leptin and elevated ghrelin. These differences are likely to increase appetite and, where food is readily available, may contribute to obesity," said Taheri, lead author of the report published online by the Public Library of Science.

For the Stanford study, carried out with researchers at the University of Wisconsin, the researchers asked sleep patterns of more than 1,000 volunteers involved in a long-term study of sleep disorders. Seventy-four percent of this group slept less than eight hours a night.

The researchers found a 14.9 percent increase in ghrelin levels and a 15.5 percent decrease in leptin levels among people who consistently slept less than five hours a night, those who got eight hours of sleep.

"It was quite amazing that a hormone can track a person's self-reported amount of sleep so well," said Dr. Emmanuel Mignot, an associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford and a co-author of the study.

In the Chicago study, Van Cauter and colleagues studied 12 healthy male volunteers in their early 20s, measuring both their self-reported appetites and physically measured hormone levels after they'd gone two nights with only four hours in bed and again when they'd gotten an average of nine hours of sleep on two nights.

After a night with just four hours' sleep, the ratio of ghrelin to leptin increased by 71 percent compared to levels after longer sleep time.

The men reported a 24 percent increase in appetite on short sleep, with a surge in desire for sweets, like candy and cookies, salty foods, like chips and nuts and starchy foods, like breads and pastas.

"We don't yet know why food choice would shift," Van Cauter said.

"Since the brain is fueled by glucose, we suspect it seeks simple carbohydrates when distressed by lack of sleep." The researchers also note that the added difficulty of making decisions while sleepy may weaken motivation to select more nutritious foods.

"There is a sense that you can pack in more calories by skipping on sleep. But we are finding that people tend to replace reduced sleep with added calories, and that's not a healthy trade," Van Cauter said.

Congress clears way for intel reform bill to pass

BY JESSE HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional negotiators reached a deal Monday with the chief House Republican opponent of legislation revamping the nation's intelligence agencies, clearing the way for a final vote, a House GOP leader said.

The development came as President Bush pressed Congress for swift action, saying the legislation was "important for the security of our country."

Rep. Deborah Pryce, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Republican Conference, said House Armed Services chairman Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., struck a deal with Senate and House ne-

gotiators that will remove his objections to the bill.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert had refused to move the legislation before Thanksgiving because of objections from GOP chairmen like Hunter and House Judiciary chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis.

Sensenbrenner remained opposed to the bill, but House Republicans will likely meet Tuesday to discuss moving forward anyway, Pryce said.

The development came as Bush prodded Congress to finish work on the sweeping legislation reorganizing the nation's 15 intelligence agencies under a single national intelligence director.

At the White House, spokes-

man Scott McClellan said, "We feel very hopeful that this legislation will get passed this week. ... We believe we can get it passed this week."

Democratic senators also said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., had told them compromise language had been reached.

Earlier Monday, Bush pressed Congress to finish the bill. "I believe we've addressed the concerns, by far, of the majority of the members of both the House and the Senate," Bush said, speaking during an Oval Office meeting with Iraq's interim President Ghazi al-Yawer. "It's a good piece of legislation. It is a necessary piece of legislation. It's a piece of legislation that is important for the security of our country."

U.S. officials plan to buy more flu vaccine

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The federal government will announce a plan this week to purchase additional flu shots to help relieve the nation's shortage, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday.

Dr. Julie Gerberding told delegates at the American Medical Association's annual winter meeting that outgoing federal Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson is expected to make the announcement.

"We do have optimism additional doses can be purchased. We hope for an announcement later in the week from Secretary Thompson," Gerberding said.

Thompson said last month that the Food and Drug Administration has completed its inspection of the vaccine from foreign manufacturers that would be available on an investigational basis.

The vaccine is considered an investigational new drug because it wasn't developed under the supervision of the FDA.

Health officials had planned on having more than 100 million doses of the vaccine this season, the biggest supply ever.

But flu shot maker Chiron Corp. announced on Oct. 5 that it could not ship its 48 million doses after British health officials suspended the maker's license because of contamination at a Liverpool plant.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Dec. 6)	100.00
South Korean won (Dec. 4)	1,018.00
Euro (Dec. 6)	51.98
British pound (Dec. 6)	0.71

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37
British pound	\$1.94
Canada (Dollar)	0.63
Denmark (Krone)	5.82
Euro (Pound)	6.22
Euro	\$1.34/0.74
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.77
Hungary (Forint)	184.16
Iceland (Krona)	61.81
Israel (Shekel)	4.55
Japan (Yen)	102.09
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.29
Norway (Krone)	6.06
Philippines (Peso)	55.83
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.74
Singapore (Dollar)	1.61
South Korea (Won)	1,041.45
Switzerland (Franc)	1.48
Thailand (Baht)	38.36
Turkey (Lira)	1,488,451.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

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Federal funds market rate	2.50
3-month bill	2.21
30-year bond	4.55

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Rosa Parks allowed to stay in apartment free

DETROIT — Civil rights icon Rosa Parks, who in 2002 faced eviction from her home, will have a free place to live for the rest of her life.

Riverfront Associates, which owns the downtown Riverfront Apartments where Parks has lived since 1994, quietly decided in early October to allow Parks to stay there rent-free permanently.

"I thought it was the right thing to do," managing partner Peter Cummings said Friday. "This woman is an icon. She deserves an enormous amount of respect. In a way, I think it's an honor to be able to accord her that respect."

Days after the previously undisclosed gift, the Detroit Free Press reported on Oct. 15 that some of Parks' relatives were worried about her finances and whether she was being properly cared for.

Man accused in slayings asks for death penalty

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — In what experts say is a rare occurrence, a man accused of murdering two children and attacking their mother has asked a judge to let him plead guilty and to sentence him to death. "I only wish the judge to sentence me to death so no one can feel responsible for another's death, including mine," Marco Allen Chapman wrote in a letter to Judge Tony Frohlich read in court on October 6.

Chapman, 32, is due back in court Tuesday, when a doctor is expected to testify about his mental state and whether he understands what a guilty plea and death sentence would mean.

"His request is very well thought out," Linda Talley Smith, who is prosecuting Chapman, said last week. "The big question is, will he change his mind and what do we do if he does?"

From The Associated Press

Cents and Sensibility

The Associated Press

Gift cards are the perfect gift — they always fit, and never cost a fortune to send, right? But consumer advocates are cautioning that we need to be slightly more careful when it comes to such gifts.

In its December issue, Consumer Reports Money Adviser examines gift cards issued by both stores and banks and found that many come with fees, for purchase and for replacements. Also, many issuers impose maintenance fees and expiration dates.

Indeed, three New England states and the nation's largest

mail operator, Simon Property Group Inc., are battling in court over fees on the Visa-branded gift cards the Indianapolis-based company sells in nearly three dozen states.

Before you grab such a card for a friend or relative, keep a few caveats in mind:

- Check expiration dates and all fees. This can usually be found in a pamphlet with the card or on the issuer's Web site.
- Use such cards quickly.
- Stick with store cards rather than bank-issued cards. The newsletter found that most retailers don't assess upfront fees.
- Consider a cash gift. No fees, no expiration, and people really like it.

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FACES

Starr regrets focus on Lewinsky

Kenneth Starr says he never should have led the investigation that resulted in President Clinton's impeachment.

"The former independent counsel, now dean of the Pepperdine University law school, says "the most fundamental thing that could have been done differently" was for somebody else to have investigated Clinton's statements under oath denying he had an affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Starr said his role in a yearlong investigation of Clinton should have focused instead on Clinton's role in the failed Arkansas land deal known as Whitewater.

"There was a sense on the part of the country that my [Lewinsky] effort was an effort somehow to expand the [Whitewater] investigation, when it was separate," he told the Santa Barbara (Calif.) News-Press following a speech Wednesday.

Nick Nolte named in lawsuit

Parents of a teenage girl have sued Nick Nolte, alleging their daughter was drugged and sexually assaulted at a party at the actor's Malibu, Calif., home two years ago.

The lawsuit, filed Nov. 29 in Superior Court, also lists an employee and several others as defendants. One of the defendants, Nicholas Woodring, was convicted in March of having sex with the girl, then 15 and a minor.

The girl's attorney, Philip Dunn, said Woodring was sentenced to 180 days in jail, but that the case did not go to trial.

"The criminal prosecution is over, and the victim wishes to make sure that nothing like this happens to anyone else again under the same or similar circumstances," Dunn said Thursday.

"The district attorney's office could not immediately confirm a criminal conviction last Thursday.

"The incident happened nearly two years ago, when Mr. Nolte was not at the property," Nolte's publicist Arnold Robinson said Thursday. "It is our understanding that the individual responsible has been held accountable. Mr. Nolte was at the time, and still remains, concerned for the young lady's well-being."

According to the civil suit, Woodring and a minor gave the girl the date-rap drug GHB and then sexually assaulted her at a Jan. 25, 2003, party.

Dern gives birth to girl

Actress Laura Dern and musician Ben Harper are the parents of a baby girl, a publicist said Friday.

The couple's daughter was born Nov. 28 at Dern's Los Angeles home, said her spokeswoman, Cara Trippichio. A name wasn't released.

"Everyone's healthy and happy," Trippichio said.

The couple also have a son, Ellery Walker, 3, who was born in 2001. Dern, 37, and Harper, 35, are engaged, Trippichio said.

Dern's film credits include "Rancho Rose," "Jurassic Park" and "Wild at Heart."

Dern

Country legend lifts fan's spirits

A gift from country music legend Buck Owens has lifted one Salem, Ore., woman's spirits.

Betty Youngblood received a huge package this week. It contained a red, white and blue guitar autographed by the 75-year-old Owens, who hosted the TV show "Hee Haw" for many years.

"I guess he wanted to cheer me up," joked Youngblood, a longtime fan of the singer. She met Owens three years ago. Her daughter works for Owens' company.

Owens knew Youngblood had been through several difficult months, including the death of her brother and recent eye surgery.

The guitar is inscribed with the message: "Two easy lessons will qualify you to pick and grin with me. Your friend, Buck Owens."

Sources and photos from The Associated Press

Country duo shakes Nashville with 'Hick-hop'



ABACA PRESS/KRT

Big & Rich perform with Two-Foot Fred, left back, and Cowboy Troy, far right, during the 38th annual Country Music Awards at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn. Jon Rich, middle, believes there's a very strong "blue-collar connection" between rap and country, something he and Big Kenny Alphin, far left, wanted to explore on their "Hick-hop" tracks.

BY SEAN DALY

The Washington Post

ROANOKE, Va.

A few hours before he's scheduled to shake and shimmy in front of 10,000 fans inside the sold-out Roanoke Civic Center, Two-Foot Fred, the dwarf prince of Nashville, is loose on an all-terrain vehicle in the arena's back parking lot. "The Deuce" — as his bosses affectionately call him — can barely reach the handlebars.

Fred, the cult-inspiring star of the video for country duo Big & Rich's risqué hit "Save a Horse (Ride a Cowboy)," steers the four-wheeler past buses and barbecue grills. People wave, flash thumbs-up. Big & Rich's growing gaggle of groupies reach out for him over security barriers.

The Deuce jerks to a stop near a stern-faced leviathan named Cowboy Troy. The 6-foot-4, 250-pound rapper — in black cowboy hat, grubby belt buckle and bright, tight Superman T-shirt — also plays a major role in Big & Rich's act, unleashing a motor-mouthed rhyme during "Rollin' (The Ballad of Big & Rich)": "You're lookin' at me crazy 'cause you think I'm loco. The Big Black Cowboy with the crazy vocal."

"You're gonna see a whole different vibe tonight," says John Rich, 30, a thin, dark-haired man who looks like the quiet dude at the poker table who's about to take all your chips. "It'll sound like an AC/DC concert."

Straight-and-narrow Nashville isn't quite sure what to do with Rich and his partner, Big Kenny Alphin, whose debut album, "Horse of a Different Color," came out of nowhere to push past the hallowed million-sold mark in just three months. Sure, the good-time album has punny honky-tonkers and slick ballads. But there's also the rap-rock of "Rollin'" with its all-inclusive message ("Charley Pride was the man in black/Rock-and-roll used to be about Johnny Cash/Hey, what you think about that?"). A chorus of "Hey ya, hey ya" on "Wild West Show" is an obvious nod to hip-hopsters OutKast. "Save a Horse" has call-and-response moments that remind you of a go-go show. Plus you'll find the kind of silly skits, digi-squiggles and self-referential boasting more akin to a Ludacris disc. Yep, "Horse of a Different Color" is controlled, country-skewing chaos.

"Show me another country act with a black person in it" Rich says.

Although they have nothing but nice things to say about country star Tim McGraw — after all, he did give them a slot on his tour — Mr. Faith Hill nevertheless represents the cleansing of country's gritty roots. Big & Rich want to dirty things up again. With a little help from their friends,

they've started a movement called the Muzik Mafia, a tight-knit collection of maverick talents intent on giving Nashville a swift kick in the gitalong. Think Willie Nelson's ruckus-raising Outlaws from the '70s — then add a dwarf.

"Why do you think Two-Foot Fred is so important to what we do?" Rich asks about his friend, who introduces the band as well as dances.

"Big & Rich don't fit any musical genre as far as Fred's concerned. And that's why he likes it so much, 'cause he doesn't fit in anywhere, either. When someone who doesn't feel like they belong at a country show sees a dwarf on stage, dancing around — well, you can't be any more out of place than that. If he's cool, everybody's cool."

"The Deuce is a badass," says Alphin. "I think he's a superstar."

And with that, Alphin, 40, a tall shaggy blond from Culpeper, Va., takes another gulp of Crown Royal whiskey, the preferred fuel for this nonstop party. There are bottles of the hooch everywhere — on buses, in dressing rooms, even in their songs. Just as 50 Cent talks up Bacardi on "In Da Club," Big & Rich, on "Save a Horse," "buy the bar a double round of Crown and everybody's getting down."

Rich, who grew up in Amarillo, Texas, believes there's a very strong "blue-collar connection" between rap and country, something he and his Big partner wanted to explore on their "hick-hop" tracks.

There's a common thread between hip-hop and country, says Cowboy Troy, who stomps onstage each night for the show-closing "Rollin'," throwing a fist the size of a canned ham into the air and demanding more crowd noise. "It's all about having a good time, drinking whatever you want to drink. Friends and family... Big & Rich are breaking down barriers, cross-pollinating between genres."

Alphin and Rich like to stamp their motto, "Country music without prejudice," on posters, T-shirts, liner notes, wherever. It may sound like a slick gimmick — after all, Kid Rock has merged Southern rock and rap, plus he's banded onstage with little person Joe C. — but it comes off as affectionate and genuine. Rich, formerly with the band Lonestar, has been friends with Cowboy Troy Coleman for 11 years and pals with Two-Foot Fred Gill for six. Both sidekicks sleep on Rich's bus.

"We're friends first," says Cowboy Troy, 33, who was an assistant manager at a Foot Locker when he got the call from Rich to come rap on "Rollin'." "My personal loyalty is to John Rich and Big Kenny."

"Somebody else in Big & Rich's position would not be as cool to me," says Fred, 30, who usually prefers a motorized scooter to an all-terrain vehicle. "With me, there's a little more baggage. It's not easy. But they're unbelievable. They don't even blink an eye when it comes to helping me."

WEDNESDAY EVENING / DECEMBER 8, 2004

MOVIES

SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	ESPNews	Pacific Report	The Parkers School of Hard Knocks Disc pok- ers pick Kim.	Arrested Develop- ment! In Go We Trust! Lucille stars up trouble.	America's Next Top Model (CC)	Las Vegas "Always Faithful" Danny and Mike search for the source of phony \$100 bills. (CC)		Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)		Late Show (CC)
7	AFN-AT	(5:45) Oprah Win- frey (CC)	(3:35) Guiding Light (CC)	(3:35) Guiding Light (CC)	(3:35) General Hospi- tal (CC)	Headline News Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)				The Sylvester & Twisty Mysteries	Buzz Lightyear of Star Command
8	NEWS	Hardball With Chris Matthews	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)			Fox News Live War with Iraq; Winston Churchill, Jan. Kanan. (CC)	Fox and Friends		Fox and Friends		American Morning	
9	SPORTS	(5:55) NBA Basketball: Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)						*** NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)				
10	SPEC	The Simpsons Marge gets breast implants. (CC)	Everybody Loves Raymond: Doctors after. (CC)	The Amazing Race (CC)		Andromeda: Dance of the Mayflies? A mysterious disease infests the Androm- eda.	Discovery Specials: Natural Wonders Comprehensive look at the intriguing an- imals and plant life of the Rockies.	Friends: The One With Ross Wed- ding - Part II	Seinfeld: Jerry in a wedding com- test. (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)	
11	AFN-HK	(5:45) Oprah Win- frey (CC)	(3:35) Guiding Light (CC)	Even Stevens	Kenan & Kel	Gilmore Girls (CC)	Depress: The Next Generation (CC)	The Cosby Show (CC)	Home Improve. (CC)	Touching by an Angel (CC)		
12	AFN-IM	Introducing The Tonight Show with Jay Leno	(3:35) Guiding Light (CC)	Even Stevens	Kenan & Kel	Gilmore Girls (CC)	Depress: The Next Generation (CC)	The Cosby Show (CC)	Home Improve. (CC)	Touching by an Angel (CC)		
14	TMC	*** 'Enigma' (2001, Supernal) Directed: Scott, Kate Winslet, Jeremy Nodder. A mathematician has spent days to crack a new Nazi code. 'R' (CC)										
24	PBS	Dragon Tales Energy is teased during a game.	Zoom Pressed- flower place mats. (CC) (DVD)	The NewHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Secrets of the Deep: Treasures at the Pole? How explorer Robert F. Scott and his team froze to death. (CC)	Regency House Party Napoleon's debut sparks a celebra- tion. (N) (CC) (DVD)		Back to the Floor Production line. (CC)	Charlie Rose Paul Volcker. (N) (CC)		
25	SHOW	*** 'Rocky V' (1990) Sylvester Stallone		*** 'Another Sister' (1993, Comedy) Rose O'Donnell. An assistant district attorney joins an undercover patrol. PG-13 (CC)			HUFF: Update on 'Your Partner' Huff deals with the legal fallout. (CC)		*** 'Phoenix' (1988, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston, Anthony LaPaglia. Three corrupt cops get caught up in a gambling scheme. 'R' (CC)			
27	A&E	City Confidential: Is Betty Johnson murdered by her bookkeeper's husband in 1992. (CC)		American Justice: Dead Woman Walk- ing: The Karla Faye Tucker Story. Executed in Texas. (CC)		American Justice: Love Triangle A Michigan lawyer is charged with murder- ing his pregnant wife. (N) (CC)	Family Fiestas Family Fun! (N) Home. (CC)	Arline: Thermal Bargain. (CC)	Biography: Carol O'Connor. All in a Lifetime: Profiling actor Carol O'Connor. (CC)	Crossing Jordan: Secrets & Lies A strange girl inspires Jordan to probe a 10-year-old triple homicide case. (CC)		
28	DISC	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
29	TFC	Wazz Up Wazz Up	Star Circle Guest	Yes, Yes Show		(55) Insider	Special Assignment	Kumikating Kabuh Ayes	Morning Star	(40) Mesayang Tanghal Bayan		
30	CNN-H	Larry King Live (CC)	CNN World News	World Sport	Business International	Asia Tonight	Biz Asia	CNN World News	World Report	Biz Asia	Business International	
31	GOLF	*** European PGA Golf Hong Kong Open — Final Round. From Hong Kong.				*** Golf Channel Academy	*** Golf Central	*** Golf Channel Academy	*** Golf Central	*** Golf Channel Academy	*** Golf Central	*** Golf Channel Academy
32	TLC	Clean Sweep: Cure for Clutter? A couple needs to get rid of furniture and art they don't like.	In a Fix: 'Par Lo' (N)	Monster House: Family Vacation House transformed into an ultimate family vacation spot.		In a Fix: 'Arabian Nights' Harvey tries home improvement.		Taking Care of Business: 'Tina's Bar- Shop' Barbershop reunion. (CC)		Monster House: Family Vacation House transformed into an ultimate family vacation spot.		
34	TOON	Samurai Jack	Dexter's Laboratory	Codename: Kids Next Door	Justice League	Powerpuff Girls	Cartoon	Looney Tunes	I Am Weasel	Sheep in the Big City	Detective Squad	
35	ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter: Freshwater Croc: Studying the freshwater crocodile in North Queensland. (CC)		Most Extreme: Builders High-ries of the animal kingdom built by Mother Na- ture. (CC)		The Jeff Corwin Experience: Australian farmers debate on a giant, fruit-eating bats. (CC)	Animal Face-Off: 'Anaconda vs. Jaguar' fight anaconda vs. muscular jaguar. (CC)	Miami Animal Police: An officer discov- ers two neglected and pregnant elephants. (CC)	The Jeff Corwin Experience: Australian farmers debate on a giant, fruit-eating bats. (CC)			
36	COM	Straight Flight for the Gay Man: Inga intrudes learns basketball. (CC)	The Daily Show With David Letterman	Mad TV: Rag group show called 'The Run Land'. (CC)	Crunk Yankers Jimmy Kimmel, Adam Carolla.	Reno 911: South Park: South Park Cartoon: A man in a scawker chickens. (CC)	Strange Case of Peking Man Science of Seduction	South Park: The Foxy mistletoe for parent. (CC)	The Daily Show With David Letterman	South Park: The Foxy mistletoe for parent. (CC)		
40	NGC-A	Extreme Latitude: Young Global Hot Shots: India: 'Actor in India'.	Snake Wranglers Copperhead Can- nons	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 'Caged' (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 'Caged' (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 'Caged' (CC)	The Club: 'Office Politics' (N)	*** 'Goldfinger' (1964, Adventure) Sean Connery, Gene Hackman, Honor Black- man. Secret agent James Bond must stop a heist at Fort Knox. (CC)	The Bob Newhart Show: Jerry Leno (CC)	The Bob Newhart Show: Jerry Leno (CC)		
42	SPIKE	South's Wildest Police Videos (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 'Caged' (CC)	Bluprint: 'A Rule' is Rule. (N)	The Parkers: 'Tia' is Rule. (N)	The Investigators: 'Trail of Clues' Clues lead to an assassin's conviction.	Foran: 'Fists' Fists protest. (CC)	Psychic Detectives: (N)	The Investigators: 'A Body to Die' The body's blamed on both parents. (CC)	Caught	Masterminds: High- tech jewelry store thefts.	
43	FOX	Remington Steele (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	Bluprint: 'A Rule' is Rule. (N)	The Parkers: 'Tia' is Rule. (N)	The Investigators: 'Trail of Clues' Clues lead to an assassin's conviction.	Foran: 'Fists' Fists protest. (CC)	Psychic Detectives: (N)	The Investigators: 'A Body to Die' The body's blamed on both parents. (CC)	Caught	Masterminds: High- tech jewelry store thefts.	
44	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live: 'Thanksgiving Show' Des- ha. (CC)	Cops: A suspect narrates to grand- mother's. (CC)	Star News Focus Friends (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)
46	COURT	NYPD Blue: 'Brothers Under Arms' Episodic and Sorensen trade a gun that was used in a homicide. (CC)	Cops: A suspect narrates to grand- mother's. (CC)	Star News Focus Friends (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)
48	STR-WLD	The Simpsons (CC)	The Drew Carey Show (CC)	Star News Focus Friends (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)	Ed (CC)
50	LIFE	(5:55) *** 'Home for the Holidays' 1999. Comedy: Holly Hunter, Robert Downey Jr. (CC)	*** 'The Autumn Heat' (1999, Drama) A woman asks her daughters to find their estranged sibling. (CC)	*** 'Stuart Little' (1999, Comedy) Daniel Keefe, Davis, Hugh Laurie. Voices of Michael J. Fox. Human parents adopt a mouse into their family. (CC)	Full Thriller: '1975 Frenzy' 1975: From a Freud. (CC)	Full Thriller: '1975 Frenzy' 1975: From a Freud. (CC)	Full Thriller: '1975 Frenzy' 1975: From a Freud. (CC)	Full Thriller: '1975 Frenzy' 1975: From a Freud. (CC)	Full Thriller: '1975 Frenzy' 1975: From a Freud. (CC)	Full Thriller: '1975 Frenzy' 1975: From a Freud. (CC)	Full Thriller: '1975 Frenzy' 1975: From a Freud. (CC)	Full Thriller: '1975 Frenzy' 1975: From a Freud. (CC)
51	ABC-FM	7th Heaven: 'Stand Up' Lucy asks her mother to perform the wedding ceremony. (CC)	Smallville: 'Robots' A scientist has the power to Clark from his home plan- et. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)
53	HIST	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)	Modern Marvels: 'Wax, Swords and Knives' History of blade implements. (CC)
57	STR-WM	Movie	(20) Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie	Movie
58	ADV 1	***Football Fever	***Lost	***Lost	***Lost	***Lost	***Lost	***Lost	***Lost	***Lost	***Lost	***Lost
59	MTV	Bolling Points	Bolling Points	The Real World: 'Philadelphia' (CC)	The Real World: 'Philadelphia' (CC)	MTV Crips: 'Wines Rides & Dubs' (N)	MTV Crips: 'Wines Rides & Dubs' (N)	MTV Crips: 'Wines Rides & Dubs' (N)	MTV Crips: 'Wines Rides & Dubs' (N)	MTV Crips: 'Wines Rides & Dubs' (N)	MTV Crips: 'Wines Rides & Dubs' (N)	MTV Crips: 'Wines Rides & Dubs' (N)
60	NICK	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'	Justice: 'The Wild Thornberry'

JAPAN TV

Afternoon
12:30 C-S: Crime Scene Investigation (12)
1:30 Israeli-Cannibal Movie (1988): Iron
Eagle II (2001) (12)
5:50 News (6)
Evening
7:20 NHK News (1)
7:25 Simple Rules (3)
9:00 U.S. Movie (2000): Perfect Storm
(154/6)
10:15 News (3)
10:20 America's Top 40 (42)
12:58 Sports: UEFA Champions League - Arsenal
vs. Real Madrid (N)
2:00 Yomiuri Symphony Hour (4)
2:42 TV Series: Bull (6)

JAPAN TV-BS1

Morning
7:20 NHK News (1)
7:25 World News (1)
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Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS & STRIPES

King Tut for a price

CA LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Museum of Art will present an exhibition of King Tut's treasures in June, but visitors will have to pay as much as \$30 — a record ticket price — to see it.

LACMA is expected to announce that "Tutankhamen and the Golden Age of the Pharaoh" will open June 16 and include about 130 Egyptian artifacts, compared with about 55 that toured the country in the 1970s.

The "Tut" ticket prices will be set by the exhibition's backers.

Sea squirts crowd ocean

ME PORTLAND — Invasive sea squirts are multiplying on the Georges Bank ocean bottom, posing potential threats to lucrative seafood species that live on the productive fishing grounds.

Researchers who inspected the area say sea squirt colonies now cover at least 40 square miles, a sixfold increase in the past year. The colonies have created dense slimy mats over gravel and sand on the northern edge of Georges Bank.

The discovery of such a large offshore colony is believed to be unprecedented and is especially troubling because of the history and value of Georges Bank to New England's seafood industry.

Scowling statue to be sold

TX DALLAS — After more than a decade of scowling at Texas burger joint patrons, Vladimir Lenin is on the move again.

The statue of the former Soviet tyrant, purchased for \$500 by the owner of Goff's restaurant in 1992 from a factory in Ukraine, will be listed on the Internet auction site eBay.

Harvey Gough is selling his restaurant near Southern Methodist University, and the 8-foot, 800-pound statue has to go. He's hoping for opening bids of \$3,000.

For Gough, a 33-year Texas National Guard veteran, the statue is a victory souvenir rather than a glorification of Lenin.

Gough placed a plaque beneath the feet of the founder of Russia's Communist dictatorship in front of the restaurant that said "America won."

Mercury spill conviction

MI DETROIT — A former maintenance worker was convicted and faces up to 15 years in prison for intentionally spilling mercury inside a high school during a union dispute. George Carl Bush, 53, will probably receive between 10 months probation and three years in prison instead, officials said. About 1,400 people inside the school were screened for contamination after the October 2001 spill.

City to pay fired workers

NY NEW YORK — The city has been ordered in federal court to give about \$275,000 in back pay to a police officer and two firefighters who were fired for riding in blackface on a Labor Day parade float in 1991.

Judge John Spizzuto ruled the city must pay Officer Joseph Locurto \$80,000, firefighter Robert Steiner \$77,121, and firefighter



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Jonathan Walters \$117,804, court records showed.

Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani blasted the display as a "disgusting display of racism" and publicly declared the three men would be fired.

But last year, Spizzuto ruled that their First Amendment rights were violated when they were fired.

Virus may control ants

FL GAINESVILLE — A U.S. Department of Agriculture researcher has discovered a natural infection that could help bring imported red fire ants under control.

Marking the first time a virus has ever been found in the invasive species, Steven Valles, a Gainesville-based entomologist, said the cold-like virus could provide "an additional control measure" in the ongoing war against the fire ants.

The invasive pest is known for its painful sting. It has been held in check by the prevalence of natural enemies in its native region. In Brazil, fire ant populations, densities and mound sizes are significantly less than they are in the United States. But because few controls followed the pest when it moved into North America, imported populations have increased nearly unchecked.

Eagle returned to wild

AL MOBILE — A bald eagle seriously injured in a fight with another eagle a year ago has been nursed back to health.

Wildlife scientists planned to release the eagle back into the Mo-



Step right up

Janaina Janin, 2, drinks from a fountain while being propped by her cousin, Isai Rodriguez, 6, and as her sister, Joana, 5, right, turns on the water during an indoor soccer tournament in Spearfish, S.D.

bile Delta. The 14-year-old female eagle, named Pilgrim, was treated at the Wildlife Sanctuary of Northwest Florida in Pensacola.

Stun-gun student deported

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — An Oklahoma State University student will be deported but won't face legal action for trying to board an airplane with a stun gun. Charges against Marzook Saleh Al-Shammary, a doctoral student from Saudi Arabia, were dismissed in federal court. Court documents say Al-Shammary, 28, won't be allowed back in the United States for 10 years.

Drunken pilot sentenced

PA NORRISTOWN — A drunken pilot who buzzed his single-engine plane near a nuclear power plant and disrupted the flight paths of six airliners was sentenced to six to 23 months in prison.

John V. Salomone had a blood alcohol level of 0.15 percent when he landed after an erratic, four-hour flight on Jan. 15 over the Philadelphia region, authorities said. The legal limit for drivers in Pennsylvania is 0.08 percent.

But Pennsylvania doesn't have laws concerning drunken flying, and drunken driving charges against Salomone were thrown out. Instead, Salomone was convicted of risking a catastrophe and reckless endangerment.

Salomone, 44, of Portstown, must also serve five years probation and undergo alcohol counseling, a Montgomery County judge ordered.

Titanic plate for sale

TX DALLAS — A homeless Dallas man is selling a plate from the Titanic on the Internet auction site eBay. Asking price? Starting at \$49,995.

Jay Sherman's plate, which he inherited from a great-uncle, has been authenticated by a Czech factory. It was made exclusively for the doomed cruise ship Titanic, and may be the only one like it to survive.

Sherman said his great-uncle was a survivor of the great British cruise ship and took the small plate with her.

More than 2,600 people had visited the Web site, but no bids have been posted.

Suit over tiger attack

MN MINNEAPOLIS — The mother of a girl attacked by a Siberian tiger at an animal park three years ago has sued the county that investigated the case. She alleges that sheriff's deputies deliberately filed inaccurate police reports to protect the animal's owners and prevent the tiger from being killed.

In her lawsuit, Mary Hartman said she later found evidence to suggest that the tiger, named Como, was not put to death by its owners in July 2001 as ordered by a judge, but probably was killed more than a year later. She said she believes another tiger was killed in its place. Como, used for breeding purposes, was to be killed and tested for rabies in the days after the attack to keep Hartman's daughter, Emily, then 7, from having to undergo a series of painful shots.



Candles for Kwanzaa

Mama Edie Armstrong, left,

helps Ashley Scharp, 6, with the lighting of the Kinara during a Kwanzaa celebration at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.



Special sendoff

Marine Sgt. Mark Murphy gets a kiss from his daughter, McKay, a

first-grader at Green Springs Elementary School in Olathe, Kan. Murphy was at the school for a sendoff party by the students in McKay's class. Murphy will be leaving for Iraq after the first of the year so the students drew pictures and wrote inspirational comments about how proud they are of him.



Parading pandas

Tournament of Roses Queen Ashley Moreno applies onion

seed to the nose of a panda on a float, titled Playful Pandemonium. The float, celebrating family, will be entered in the Rose Parade on New Year's Day.



Here comes Santa Claus

Santa and his helpers make their annual trip down Bayou Little Calilou in Chauvin, La., aboard a commercial shrimp vessel.



Cat fancied

Judge Rachel Anger of Ann Arbor, Mich., declares Chamseys Pinot Grigio the best kitten at the United Persian Society Cat Show at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds in North Berlin, Ill. The European Burmese was shown by Robin Bryon of Champaign, Ill. The show included about 200 cats.



Helping hand

A snowboarder, right, get a lesson from a Perfect Turn ski instructor at Mount Snow in West Dover, Vt.



Kicking off Christmas

The Radio City Rockettes perform during the Boston debut of the Radio City Christmas spectacular at the Wang Theatre.

Bear hunt called off

NJ TRENTON — The state's highest court called off New Jersey's bear hunt four days before the season is scheduled to start.

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the state needs to establish a proper management program for bears before it can allow the animals to be hunted.

More than 300 black bears were killed in last year's hunt — the first bear season in 33 years in New Jersey. Proponents maintain another season is needed because of increasing contact between the animals and humans.

The hunt was authorized in July by the state Fish and Game Council, an independent panel that sets New Jersey's hunting seasons. Nearly 4,000 permits had been issued.

Dog rescued from tire

TX WACO — It took the Jaws of Life and a veterinarian, but Cinnamon the Boston terrier is no longer stuck in a tire.

Wayne Hyde saw his 10-month-old dog's rear quarters sticking in the air, her head plugged into the center rim of a full-size tire.

Trudy Dillinger, Hyde's girlfriend, tried using Vaseline to release the 17-pound dog's head, which seemed bigger than the 4-inch-diameter ring around her neck.

Dillinger called the Belmead Fire Department. Firefighters tried to cut the tire rim with a hand-held metal saw, but they stopped to avoid accidentally hurting the dog.

Then they used their most serious extraction device, a rescue tool called the Jaws of Life, which uses hydraulic power to pry apart or slice open cars when accident victims are stuck.

Briton pleads guilty

CA LOS ANGELES — A 43-year-old man originally from Middlebrough, England, pleaded guilty Tuesday to trying to extort \$180,000 from a supermarket chain by threatening to put tainted baby food products on store shelves, authorities said.

In exchange for his guilty plea, federal prosecutors agreed to recommend that David Ian Dickson be sentenced to 41 to 51 months in prison. Dickson had faced a possible 25-year prison term.

A federal grand jury in May handed up an indictment against Dickson charging him with one count of extortion and one count of tampering with consumer products. Dickson was living with his family in the Venice area of Los Angeles on an expired visa at the time of the extortion attempt.

Released, then arrested

TX DALLAS — A 76-year-old man was arrested just three months after his release from a Texas prison where he had served more than 40 years on a wrongful conviction.

Robert Carroll Coney of Dallas was released in August after his 1962 Angeleno County robbery conviction was ruled a case of mistaken identity.

Coney had said his identity was confused with a man he carpoled with through Lufkin on the day of the crime.

But federal marshals recently arrested him on a warrant issued in 1976, accusing him of escaping from a Georgia prison. The Dallas Morning News reported he had been serving a 23-year sentence in Georgia for robbery and forging checks.

Coney had spent time behind bars in several states, including Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, and escaped and was recaptured numerous times.

Six dead in crash

FL VERO BEACH — Six people died in a head-on collision on Florida's Turnpike that might have been caused by a blown tire, officials said.

The incident began when the driver of a Toyota heading north lost control of the vehicle, which crossed the median into southbound traffic about 20 miles west of Vero Beach, Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Pat Santangelo said. The car then rammed head-on into a Honda.

The Honda sideswiped another southbound vehicle, causing the third car to cross the median into northbound lanes.

No one in the third vehicle was injured.

All three people in the Toyota died and three of the four people in the Honda died, including a 7-month-old child, Santangelo said.

One woman in the Honda survived with a broken leg, he said.

Donor IDs stolen

PA A Red Cross employee and two other people were accused of stealing the identities of about 40 blood donors and using the information to obtain about \$268,000 in cash and merchandise.

In 2002 and 2003, Red Cross data entry clerk Danielle Baker, 33, of Collingswood, N.J., filched names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, telephone numbers and places of employment from the computer records of people who had participated in corporate blood drives in Philadelphia, U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan said. Harold J. McCoy III, 33, and Karynn R. Long, 36, of Dayton, Ohio, then used the information to obtain credit cards, counterfeit checks and get bank loans, Meehan said.

"The defendants zeroed in on people based on their employment with companies that were well known, knowing it was easier for people with high salaries to obtain credit," he said.

79-year-old arrested

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — A 79-year-old woman was arrested at Fort Lauderdale International Airport when security screeners found an unloaded gun in her carry-on bag, sheriff's officials said.

Margaret Anderson was planning to board a flight on Bahamas Air when an X-ray scanner revealed a small handgun inside the bag, and Broward Sheriff's Office deputies took her and her luggage into custody, sheriff's spokesman Jim LeJedai said in a news release.

Deputies found a single-shot Colt Derringer in a gun case built to resemble a hardcover book, with seven .22-caliber bullets in the case next to the weapon, the sheriff's office said.

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Make the most of training

I'm a soldier with 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery stationed in Baghdad. I agree that maybe National Guard units being deployed don't get the right training, but unless you know exactly what you are going to do then it doesn't matter much. Whatever training you get, it is designed to get you started and prepare you to go to war, it won't teach you everything. You need to take what they give you and improve on it or add to it as you see fit.

My battalion went through mobilization in 27 days and got to spend five hours with our families before we were sent here to do a job that we weren't trained to do. Yeah, National Guardsmen may think they have it rough, but there are others who had to rougher. People die in war and no matter how much training or how good the equipment you have, nothing will ever change that.

So they should quit whining about their training and equipment and do their job the best they can. They're soldiers, they should stick it up and drive on.

Spc. Alan Etrikain

Camp Slayer, Iraq

Give Marine a break

The writer of the Nov. 26 letter "Don't jolly tobacco" makes a point that smoking is dangerous.

This is just going to be another chapter in the civil war of the South versus the North. I

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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diets to stop using tobacco products, but I also realize that the middle of a stressful deployment may not be the easiest time to do it. And just like any other addiction, the soldier has to be in a place mentally where he is ready to stop smoking.

Our aid station has run a smoking-cessation class with many success stories. "I don't feel that this particular pack of 'glories' smoking is anything else for that matter." It shows a young Marine prepared to give his life for his country and his cause who just wants to take a break, have a cigarette and go home in one piece.

1st Lt. Jeff Szymanski

Camp Liberty, Iraq

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OPINION

What strengthens parties weakens process

THE more the academics and analysts explore the entrails of last month's election, the clearer and simpler the lesson becomes. As the Clinton folks might put it, "it's the partisanship, stupid."

David Broder

Democrats did a first-class job of mobilizing their supporters and bringing them to the polls. But Republicans did an even better job, and that is essentially why they won.

The anatomy of the Nov. 2 voting is intriguing in itself, but its implications for the future of politics and government are even more important. It signals a protracted period of two-party competition and means that Republicans and Democrats alike will face intense pressure to keep their coalitions intact.

Democrats, who came out on the short end of the 51-48 percent presidential popular vote and also lost seats for the second election in a row in both the House and Senate, cannot afford any more defections. Losses among women, minorities and what remains of their Southern base would make the task of a comeback all the more daunting.

It surely was no coincidence that President Bush began talking steps to split that Democratic coalition with his very first appointments to his second-term administration: Condoleezza Rice, a black woman with Southern roots and a California connection, to run the State Department; Margaret Spellings, another woman and a Texan, to run the

Department of Education; and two high-profile Hispanics, Alberto Gonzales and Carlos Gutierrez, to lead the Justice and Commerce departments, respectively.

But it is not only Democrats who have to worry about coalition-maintenance. Republicans and Bush in particular are equally dependent on keeping the flock intact. Bush did not beat John Kerry among independents. Kerry won almost 9 out of 10 Democratic votes and prevailed narrowly among independents. Bush won only by turning out massive numbers of Republicans and capturing more than 9 out of 10 of their votes.

What was true of Kerry and Bush applied almost equally to the races for the Senate, the House and governorships. ... House Republican candidates received more than 8 of 10 Republican votes, while Democratic candidates received 3 of 4 Democratic votes. It was not surprising that House Speaker Dennis Hastert did not want to let Democratic lawmakers pass the president's intelligence reorganization plan over the opposition of many Republicans. To do so would alienate him from his flock, and perhaps put some of them at risk with their voters.

All this is a far cry from the pattern of government and politics with which we became familiar during the Cold War. As John Kenneth White of Catholic University points out in one of the clearest and most succinct of the many post-election analyses that have crossed my desk, from 1952 through 1988, Republicans won the White House seven of 10 times, but rarely were able to disturb Democratic control of Congress.

From Dwight Eisenhower through the first President Bush, the voting public generally trusted Republicans to manage international affairs, keep the country out of wars, assure a strong defense and run the economy. Democrats in Congress were preferred



to look after the down-home concerns, such as Social Security, Medicare, education and the rest.

But that pattern of divided government has been decisively broken. ... Part of the story is the change in the South, where conservative Democrats once prevailed. Now, their House and Senate seats are occupied by Republicans.

But partisans on both sides in other regions are also recognizing the genuine differences between Republicans and Democrats and are choosing sides accordingly. Some of those differences are ideological.

Some are cultural, including the issues of faith and religion, which drew so much atten-

tion in the immediate aftermath of the election.

But the overwhelming factor, the one that ties it all together, is the simple pull of partisan allegiance — the hold that each of the parties exerts on its own followers.

Where there is strong partisanship in the electorate, White reminds us, we are likely to see partisanship in government as well. "The significance of party to the 2004 vote means that compromise between the two parties-in-government is unlikely," White writes.

Keep that in mind when the next Congress begins.

David Broder is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Insurgents seemingly unaffected by troop levels

BY RICHARD HART SINNREICH

GRADUALISM rarely is a productive way to apply military power. War, as theorist Carl von Clausewitz reminded us, is not just the application of force against an unresisting object. Enemies adapt, and piecemeal combat power allows them that much more freedom to do it.

All of which is relevant to Iraq troop levels — which, the Pentagon announced last week, will climb for the next few months to 150,000, the highest level since the war began. Only about 1,500 will be troops not already scheduled to deploy. The rest of the increase will come from extending the tours of the units the new deployments were intended to replace.

That's likely to arouse justifiable unhappiness among affected soldiers and their families. For all the benefits of unit rotation, raising expectations only to shatter them isn't one. As many have noted, the human burdens of this war are being borne by a very small number of our citizens in and out of uniform. Overstraining their undoubted dedication isn't wise.

But the broader question is what, in a military sense, 12,000 more troops for a few months will buy us. In that connection, recent trends are anything but encouraging.

This year alone U.S. troop levels in Iraq rose from 115,000 in February, to 130,000 in March, to 138,000 in May, to 140,000 in July, before dipping to 138,000 in September. During the same period, insurgent attacks on coalition forces, never mild in Iraq, rose from around 400 a month to 2,400.

That's an ominous correlation. It suggests that the insurgents have been able not only to withstand incremental U.S. troop increases but also to expand their operations significantly despite them.

There's no obvious reason to expect that another marginal troop increase will reverse that pattern. On the contrary, official announcement of the increase as merely a measure to dampen violence in advance of January's scheduled election offers the insurgents every incentive to ride it out.

Given the overall scarcity of coalition forces in relation to Iraq's populated geography, that shouldn't be too difficult. From the outset, the military problem in Iraq has never been insufficient troops to defeat the enemy in battle, but rather insufficient troops to secure what they've won.

Now that we've belatedly decided to clear the insurgents from urban strongholds such as Samarra and Fallujah rather than hoping they would disarm, the problem is likely to mount. Each local success implies a subsequent requirement to secure the cleared lo-

cality, and troops committed to such occupation can't also continue to attack.

Nor, apparently, can we count on Iraq's fledgling security forces to bail us out. Even the most encouraging reports of their performance confirm that their reliability and effectiveness depend entirely on their continued integration with better-equipped, -trained and -led coalition forces. Turning cleared areas over to them, stock and barrel isn't feasible yet.

Meanwhile ... all indications are that January may well see the departure or reduction of some current allied contingents. Presuming that these cutbacks would not include our British allies, the military consequences would be relatively modest, however uncomfortable the political ramifications. But they certainly wouldn't help.

All of which suggests that, as has been

true from the first day of the invasion, this is America's war to win or lose. Barring an unlikely change of heart by those with little reason to have one, we had better start thinking seriously about what it will take to win it.

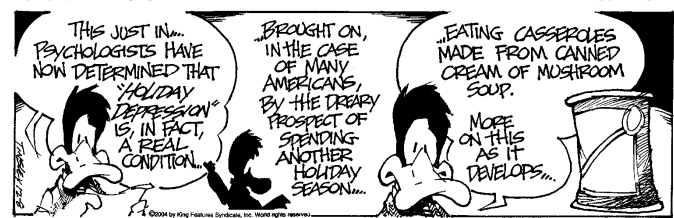
The odds are that continued gradualism won't. The temptation is to blame it on politicians. ... But that doesn't excuse military commanders who should know better and who repeatedly have insisted that they have all the troops they need even as events just as repeatedly have proved otherwise. A brand new lieutenant would blush at so consistent a pattern of military misjudgment.

That also happened 40 years ago, and we're still paying the price. Even the most stubborn leaders should be reluctant to risk making the same mistake again.

Richard Hart Sinnreich writes about military affairs for the *Lawton, Okla., Sunday Constitution*. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Horoscope

The subconscious is like a soap opera that evolves in its own parallel world. Whether or not we choose to tune in, the characters continue to interact, and the plot continues to weave. But during the Scorpio month, we're irresistibly drawn into the action and can't help reading it to ourselves. You thought was just a hunch turns out to be true.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 8). You love adventure, and this year gives you worlds to discover. This month, a circle of interesting folks wants to know you, and your interaction with them brings new business and romance into your personal life. January starts a career transition that lasts almost three months, but in late March, a huge win makes you happy you were tenacious.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A \$1 bill and a \$100 bill are the same size on the same paper printed with the same ink. The only difference is the message. Make your message powerful and unique. Let the world experience your value.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're not a vengeful person — not usually. OK, sometimes you are, but only on days like today, when all the wrong people seem to be getting the good stuff. Assign yourself a "time out" to count your blessings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Once you fall into a groove, there's no stopping you. If everyone were as spontaneous, optimistic and energetic, all the work would be done, and you could start your weekend already. Do be careful not to look down on others now.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Strange but appealing opportunities seem slightly removed from the real thing. Beware of the lure of rhinestones. This is no time to abandon loyalty and security for potential riches and fame.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're valued for your potential — and you'll certainly live up to it — but pause to be sure it's what they really want. Your talents are varied. Which

ones give you the greatest joy? What work doesn't feel like work when you're doing it?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In medieval times, it was believed that one had to turn pale in the presence of a beloved, eat and sleep very little when vexed by love, and suffer through the excruciating beauty of a loved one. Kinds like what you're going through now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Once again, everyone turns to you to smooth things over. Your deft handling of people is a skill more marketable than you think. Brainstorm how you could be paid more for what comes so naturally to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're a whirling dervish, spinning for the sheer spiritual ecstasy of it. Keep this in mind when loved ones challenge you to calm down and have a cup of tea. Your choice is to spin, and there's nothing wrong with that.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Subtle yet powerful factors contribute to your level of satisfaction. You're likely to take to heart what someone says in passing or see an unusual accident as a sign. Good! You're paying attention!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your love of nature grounds you, and you'll feel relief when wrapped in its beauty. This is something to enjoy privately — others may diminish your experience with their lack of understanding. Except for Virgo, of course.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Usually a mellow sort, you're still not immune to the occasional impulse to rage. Take a walk, make a call, or go to the gym. Exhaust all other options before unleashing the furies. Ultimately, you're passionate because you care.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People around you can't help but be influenced, and perhaps a bit intimidated, by your high standards. Let young ones know that it's OK to fail once in a while — in fact, it's an essential part of their development.

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Holday Mathis



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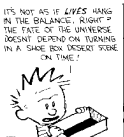
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Calvin and Hobbes



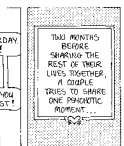
Jump Start



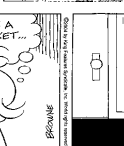
Zits



Cathy



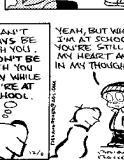
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



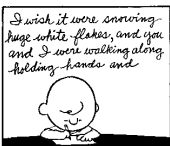
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts





Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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Across

- 1 Actress Jessica
5 Hole
8 Manage somehow

Down

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|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------|----|----------------------|
| 8 | Manage someone | 1 | Teensy bit | 31 | Piercing tool |
| 12 | Earl Grey's family? | 2 | Musical Horse | 32 | "Holy cow!" |
| 13 | Commotion | 3 | Crazy | 34 | Obeys the |
| 14 | In due course | 4 | Off the boat | | coswain |
| 15 | Fleeing the fuzz | 5 | Crony | 38 | Attraction |
| 17 | WWII invasion site | 6 | Tennison princess | 40 | Home away from home |
| 18 | Street's boss? | 7 | Pyramidal, often | 42 | Blond shade |
| 19 | Anticlimax | 8 | Social stratum | 43 | Sci-fi villain |
| 21 | Patronize the library | 9 | Working | 44 | Prince of India |
| 24 | Infinitesimal | 10 | Game of chukkers | 45 | Author Morrison |
| 25 | Old woman's heels | 11 | Eve's grandson | 47 | Othello's foe |
| 28 | Home of fortune? | 16 | Away from WSW | 48 | Flourentine farewell |
| 30 | Binge | 20 | MP's quarry | 49 | Screws up |
| | | 22 | Winged | 52 | Affirmative action |
| | | 23 | Low-down joints | 53 | Sneak eyes |

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	V	I	D	T	I	M	C	A	M	P
S	I	T	E	H	O	I	O	R	A	L
H	A	S	E	B	E	E	N	S	R	I
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12-8 CRYPTOQUIP

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Y A V R L Q W D R G Q L J V A Z .
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 CLAIMED HE WOULD RETURN MY COLANDER,
 BUT HIS STORY DIDN'T HOLD WATER.
 Today's Cryptoquin Clue: E equals P

**IT'S
FREE!!!**



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photos
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SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—NFL: Dallas at Seattle (d).

AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m.—NBA: Milwaukee at Indiana.

AFN-Baseball, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Memphis vs. Pittsburgh at New York.

AFN-Fox, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Minnesota vs. Michigan at Dallas at Atlanta.

AFN-11, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Oklahoma State vs. Syracuse at New York.

AFN-11, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Houston (d).

AFN-11, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Sacramento (d).

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Notre Dame at Indiana.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: Toronto at Detroit.

AFN-11, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Oklahoma at Purdue.

AFN-11, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Minnesota at Nebraska (d).

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Rochkurt 84, Washburn 83
Olathe 70, Tulsa 47

Arizona 68, Mississippi 44
Boston College 74, UCLA 64

Washington, 85, North Dame de Namur 42

Washington, 85, Washington 56

George Washington 101, Maryland 92

Michigan 51, 66, Georgia 46, Oregon 60

AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in the Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records as of Dec. 5, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's rankings:

Record	Pts	Pts
1. LSU (45)	8-0	1,125
2. Stanford	7-1	729
3. Duke	7-1	932
4. Texas	4-2	912
5. North Carolina	7-1	889
6. Baylor	6-1	870
7. Notre Dame	7-1	866
8. Connecticut	3-1	846
9. Tennessee	4-2	795
10. Wake Forest	5-0	763
11. Georgia	5-2	651
12. Michigan St.	5-0	619
13. Texas Tech	2-1	600
14. Vanderbilt	6-0	572
15. DePaul	5-0	567
16. Minnesota	6-1	418
17. Ohio State	5-1	382
18. UCLA	5-1	338
19. Maryland	5-1	261
20. Washington	4-1	261
21. Purdue	4-2	201
22. Iowa	4-2	184
23. TCU	6-2	132
24. Texas A&M	6-2	129
25. Kansas St.	4-2	87

Other receivers voting: Iowa 81, Georgia Tech 75, Wisconsin 37, Arizona 34, Penn St. 25, Richmond 25, Oregon 18, Villanova 18, Texas Tech 17, Kansas 13, N.C. State 12, Oklahoma 12, Tulsa 11, Illinois 4, Utah 4, Texas 3, New Mexico 3, Kansas State 2, Chattanooga 1, Hartford 1, Montana 1.

Sunday's women's scores

California, 61, West Chester 51

Carsius 62, Rider 40

California 72, Becker 45

Colgate 70, Wagner 56

Connecticut 75, Holy Cross 36

Edinboro 78, East Stroudsburg 52

Fairmont St. 100, Columbia Union 53

Franklin Pierce 62, Mass.-Lowell 51

Indiana, 74, Cheney 61

Boys' basketball

Long Beach St. 88, Stony Brook 82

Maine Maritime 83, Lasell 44

Manhattan 83, Fairfield 68

Martinezville 60, Slippery Rock 57

Medgar Evers 65, York 68

Millsville 62, Lock Haven 46

Niagara 72, Loyola, Md. 64

Penn St., 77, North Carolina 71

Seton Hall, 74, Saint Joseph 36

Shenandoah 62, Kutztown 48

St. Peter's 52, Merritt 51

Villanova 65, Penn 61

Girls' basketball

Auburn 54, Tulane 37

California 72, Berkeley 48

Georgia Tech 66, Grambling St. 52

North Carolina 72, Kentucky 58

Mississippi St. 71, South Alabama 50

Old Dominion 65, Rutgers 63

Randolph-Macon 52, Webster 36

Richmond 72, W. Va. Commonwealth 67

St. Francis 78, Shuler 62

Way Wesleyan 89, Washington & Lee 68

Iowa 77, N. Iowa 50

Iowa 78, N. Iowa 50

Michigan 68, Wisconsin 65

North Carolina 72, Kentucky 58

N. Michigan 67, Northland 63

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Don't bet on Barry Bonds, Gianbi

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Don't expect Major League Baseball to discipline Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield over reported admissions of steroid use.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is more concerned about pressuring players to agree to more stringent testing before the current labor contract expires in December 2006.

Analysis

Already convicted in the court of public opinion, the players who testified before a federal grand jury are protected from discipline because steroids weren't banned by Major League Baseball until Sept. 30, 2002, previously undetectable THG wasn't prohibited until last March, and Human Growth Hormone still isn't blacklisted.

And while baseball's labor contract calls for penalties for positive tests and criminal convictions, there's no discipline specified for fessing up to past use.

These articles say discipline is reeling from these allegations," New York Mets pitcher Tom Glavine, a players' association leader, said Sunday. "To me, there is nothing new. People have been talking about the steroid issue for several years now. What's coming out of the grand jury testimony, I don't think there's anything surprising. Yes, it's a big story. It absolutely needs to be addressed. But it shouldn't be surprising or shock-shattering to anybody."

Dozens of major leaguers were in Phoenix on Monday for the start of the union's annual executive meeting.

"Obviously, the steroids issue is something that was going to come up in our board meeting," union head Donald Fehr said. "It would have been the case either way apart from this."

Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer, and Rob Manfred, executive vice president of labor relations in the commissioner's office, later met several times since May to discuss Selig's call for more frequent testing and harsher penalties.

Top lawmakers support McCain's call for crackdown on steroids in baseball

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Major League Baseball should enforce stronger rules against steroid abuse by players on its own, but Congress will require changes by law if necessary, leading lawmakers said Sunday.

Sen. John McCain, the driving force behind changing how baseball polices performance-enhancing drug use, said Sunday he believes President Bush would sign a bill into law.

"There's not a doubt in my mind. He'd love to," said McCain, who accompanied Bush to Saturday's Army-Navy college football game in Philadelphia.

He added that Bush, too, would prefer for baseball to act on its own. "I know that the president would like to see it done through collective bargaining and decision made by owners and labor," said McCain, R-Ariz.

Other lawmakers, including the top Republican in the Senate and the House's top Democrat, expressed similar sentiments as cries grew louder for baseball to act.

The matter has become urgent since the San Francisco Chronicle reported last week details of players' testimony to a federal grand jury that indicted four people

Publicly, the union has shown a willingness not to discuss changes, not to make them.

"We've had ongoing discussions with the union," Manfred said.

"We feel a great sense of urgency to complete the discussions, and we hope the union has the same sense."

"Because steroid use wasn't banned until two years ago, it's inconceivable baseball would denote in its record book that Bonds might have used performance-enhancing

drugs on charges of illegally distributing steroids to top athletes.

One of those indicted was the personal trainer of the San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds, whose 73 home runs in 2001 is the game's single-season record and who is 53 homers away from breaking Hank Aaron's all-time record of 755. Bonds told the grand jury he used a cream and a clear substance but said he didn't know they were forbidden substances.

"The important aspect of this issue is not Barry Bonds" or other big names, McCain, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, said on "Fox News Sunday."

"The important aspect of this issue is that high school kids all over America believe that this is the only way they can make it," he said.

"They have a responsibility, not only to the sport, but to the children of America who look up to these players," Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said on "Fox News Sunday." "Quite frankly, it's overdue."

Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said the problem "could be ended, bang, just like that, if everybody from the owners to the unions just step up and face the reality that we've got a huge problem."

drugs when he set the season home run record of 73 in 2001. And whether any revelations damage his chances to make the Hall of Fame will be determined only when the eligible baseball writers who vote make up their minds in several years.

Testing with penalties for steroid use began only this year, with each player tested once between the start of spring training and the end of the regular season. The penalty for a first positive test is counseling, and a second positive test could result

only in a 15-day suspension. It would take five positive tests before Selig could ban a player for a year.

Even if a player is convicted for the use of a prohibited substance, baseball's labor contract allows a suspension of only 15 to 30 days for first-time offenders.

Critics say year-round testing is needed, along with stiffer penalties. U.S. Sen. John McCain threatened to introduce legislation to override baseball's testimony aren't sufficient to discipline players; baseball itself would have to have the actual tested states means.

Giambi's problems with the New York Yankees are the result of his increased injuries and diminished output. The team is examining whether it can use the language in his contract to escape the remaining \$82 million he is owed for what appears to be reasons of financial flexibility — not necessarily because the team is upset about steroid use.

No major league ever has been suspended for steroids.

"The only thing that's come out of the grand jury is Jason Giambi admitted to it, but nobody's surprised by it," Glavine said. "In Barry's case, the cloud remains as to whether he knew he was doing it or didn't. It kind of puts it back on the front page and it becomes a hot-button issue that everybody's talking about."

"People forget that in terms of this agreement, it's only been in place a short period of time and the first period was just a testing phase. We've had only one year of mandatory testing. I think the program we had last year had some effect on guys. Did it go far enough and what steps can be taken to totally eliminate the problem?"

"We've had one year of mandatory testing. I think the program we had last year had some effect on guys. Did it go far enough and what steps can be taken to totally eliminate the problem?"

Calvin Murphy found innocent of sexual abuse charges

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A jury cleared Hall of Fame basketball player Calvin Murphy of all charges accusing him of sexually abusing five of his 10 daughters more than a decade ago.

As soon as the acquittal was announced Monday, Murphy shook his head and his lawyer, Rudy H. Hardin, and wiped tears from his eyes.

"To hear that people believe in me and found me innocent of these charges, my heart just swelled up and I started beating very fast in my body," Murphy said outside the courtroom. "I cannot say enough for what they have done to give me my life back."

He said he hopes to one day be able to sit down and talk with his daughters.

Murphy, 56, had long denied the allegations, saying they were based on resentment and a dispute over money.

The jury deliberated about two hours before returning its verdict in the month-long trial.

He faced three charges of inde-

cency with a child and three charges of aggravated sexual assault.

Murphy could have faced five years to life in prison for the aggravated offenses and 2-20 years for the indecency violations.

Selig has cancer surgery

NEW YORK — Baseball commissioner Bud Selig had surgery Monday to remove a cancerous lesion from his forehead.

The lesion was detected last month during Selig's annual physical, and a biopsy confirmed that it contained melanoma, a form of skin cancer.

"There is no evidence that the melanoma has extended beyond the skin," the commissioner's office said in a statement. "In addition to the removal of the lesion, minor skin grafting was performed."

Selig, 70, was to remain overnight at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He was expected to be back at his office in Milwaukee later this week.

Singh is PGA player of year

NEW YORK — Vijay Singh

Sports briefs

won the PGA Tour player of the year award Monday for the first time, ending Tiger Woods' five-year hold on the coveted season that he led no debate about who was No. 1 in golf.

Singh captured the PGA Championship among his nine victories and became the first player to surpass \$10 million in a season. No one else won more than three times, and his earnings nearly doubled those of outgoing champion.

Singh earlier won the PGA of America player of the year, which is determined by points. He also captured his first Vardon Trophy for having the lowest scoring average, and his second straight money title.

Singh won six of his last nine tournaments, including the PGA Championship for his third major.

Perhaps the most important victory was the Deutsche Bank Championship outside London, where the Fijian beat Woods in a final-round duel to become No. 1 in the world ranking.

USC fires hoops coach Bibby

LOS ANGELES — Henry Bibby was suddenly fired as Southern California's basketball coach Monday, just four games into his ninth season.

The Trojans are 2-2. "I understand that the timing of this is unorthodox," athletic director Mike Garreth said in a statement. "But I feel strongly that our men's basketball program needs to go in a different direction. And it was obvious to me that change had to be made now."

Assistant Jim Sale was appointed interim coach for the rest of the season.

Bibby had an overall record of 131-111. His 1997, 2001 and 2002 teams made it to the NCAA tournament, including a final eight appearance in 2001.

Bibby is a former NBA player and the father of Sacramento Kings guard Mike Bibby.

NBA won't stop hearing

NEW YORK — The NBA informed the players' union Sunday it will not seek a temporary restraining order in federal court,

clearing the way for a grievance hearing over suspensions for the Pacers-Pistons brawl.

Arbitrator Roger Kaplan will preside over the hearing Thursday and Friday at a Manhattan law office. Suspended players Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal and Stephen Jackson are expected to attend. Artest was sidelined for the Pacers' 30 games, and O'Neal for 25 for fighting with fans Nov. 19.

More drugs test for track

HELSINKI, Finland — Track and field's governing body will increase testing and funding in an attempt to stem the use of performance-enhancing substances.

The International Association of Athletics Federations also said it will work more closely with the World Anti-Doping Agency.

"New demands will have to be met," said A.D.A. president, head of the IAAF's doping commission. "We will allocate more resources, more manpower and more exper-

The IAAF will add up to five top posts to its anti-doping task force, which was established after the Athens Olympics.

Bears voice frustration on spoiled holiday

BY GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — California refused to run up the score or beg for poll votes.

Maybe the Bears should have. Cal (10-1) was left out of the Bowl Championship Series, denied one of the eight spots in college football's big-money games despite a season of statistical superlatives and dominating victories.

The fourth-ranked Golden Bears will be stuck playing Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl while Texas plays in the Rose Bowl. Cal's Rose Bowl drought reached 46 years despite one of the best regular seasons in school history.

The Bears felt beaten as they left their team meeting. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers saw confusion and disappointment in his teammates when they found out their Rose Bowl dreams were replaced with a trip to San Diego to face Texas Tech.

"It just shows it's a faulty system, and we've got to do something to change it up," Rodgers said. "I bet Auburn is pretty ticked, too. ... Nobody cares about West Coast football, I don't think. I just hope Southern Cal represents us well."

Texas (10-1) earned past the Bears in the final BCS standings despite Cal's 26-16 road victory over Southern Mississippi on Saturday night. The Longhorns gained points in both polls, and the computer rankings kept Texas well in front of Cal.



AP

California quarterback Aaron Rodgers speaks to the media at Memorial Stadium in Berkeley, Calif., Sunday after learning that his football team will not be going to the Rose Bowl.

The Longhorns will face Michigan (9-2) on Jan. 1.

There were dozens of factors in the decision, but the Bears felt they were superior in almost every venue — except the political arena. Rodgers figured Texas coach Mack Brown's pleading for poll support made a difference, and he was glad Cal coach Jeff Tedford never did likewise.

"I thought it was a little classless how Coach Brown was begging for votes after the [Texas A&M] game," Rodgers said. "I think a team's record and the way you play

"I just feel terrible for the alumni and the fans who have waited so long for thisAs a program, we were set on the Rose Bowl. I felt like we did enough to earn that."

Jeff Tedford
Cal coach

should speak for itself, and you shouldn't have to complain about the BCS system. Coach Tedford isn't going to, although he's frustrated just like we are. I think we're a bigger team, classier than that."

Tedford was less emotional than Rodgers, but no less disappointed as he evaluated the Bears' long list of accomplishments.

The only blemish on their record was a six-point loss at top-ranked USC. They beat 10 teams by an average of 23.9 points per game. They were the only school in the nation's top six both in scoring offense and scoring defense.

The Rose Bowl has matched a Big 10 team against a Pac-10 school for decades, and with the Pac-10 champion Trojans

headed to the Orange Bowl, Cal hoped to end the conference's longest Rose Bowl drought. Instead, there will be burnt orange in the Pasadena stands.

"I just feel terrible for the alumni and the fans who have waited so long for this," Tedford said. "As a program, we were set on the Rose Bowl. I felt like we did enough to earn that."

Most of the Bears still were jet-lagged and exhausted after grinding out a victory in Hattiesburg, Miss., just 18 hours earlier in a game postponed from Sept. 16 by Hurricane Ivan. The late-season road trip provided a national television audience — but when the Golden Eagles were difficult to put away, it might have swayed some voters away.

And that was baffling to Tedford, who refused to try to score one last touchdown in the waning seconds to pad the score. The Bears also were hurt by a questionable clipping call in the closing minutes, which negated a touchdown run by J.J. Arrieta.

Usually, Tedford wouldn't spare a second's thought on such issues — but in the BCS world, it might have made a difference.

"If yesterday's game was the game that turned anybody's head, then that's sad, because it's about a season," Tedford said. "We're going to keep our same philosophy. It's hard enough just to win games."

BCS: Latest mess brings more calls for playoffs

BCS, FROM BACK PAGE

The second resulted from a growing chorus of complaints and the threat of a lawsuit from non-BCS schools. To quiet that rebellion, the power brokers agreed to save a spot in the bowl bowls for any contender outside the six major conferences that earned a top six BCS ranking.

Utah did that by going undefeated, which sent Texas to the Rose Bowl and bumped Cal all the way down to the Holiday Bowl, where the payoff is \$4.5 million less.

It won't make Cal feel any better, but at least Utah coach Urban Meyer said what everybody involved in the mess was thinking.

"There's only one answer and I think everybody knows it. I think everybody is going to avoid it at all costs, because of the ramifications. The only way to have a perfect system," he said, "is to have eight teams — or however many teams — play for the No. 1 spot."

Meyer's team made a compelling argument for being one of those, but he wasn't in the mood to push the playoff talk any further. By clawing their way into the Fiesta Bowl, the Utes are in line for one of the hefty BCS checks, and just getting there triggered a \$100,000 bonus clause in the Florida-bound Meyer's contract.

And if all the coaches who got hoisted in the past took their beatings with as much grace as Tuber-

ville and Tedford, maybe the BCS wouldn't come off looking like such a bully.

But once it became clear Cal or Texas could both finish 10-1, and only one of them was likely to make a major bowl, their coaches had to make a decision. Texas coach Mack Brown took the low road.

Brown hadn't earned a BCS spot in six seasons at Texas, largely because of five straight losses to Oklahoma. And so, trailing Cal in the rankings, he went public with his plea to voters to switch to the Longhorns as the Golden Bears prepared to wrap up their regular season against Southern Mississippi.

"If you've got a vote, vote for us," Brown said. "I'm asking you to do that and I'm asking everyone across the nation. This team deserves to be in the BCS. They deserve to go more than some teams that are being talked about."

Enough voters did close the gap between Texas and Cal to let the computers make the difference. Still, you have to wonder whether Brown would have been so vocal if not for the bonus clause in his contract calling for a \$50,000 payout if Texas made a BCS bowl.

Conflict of interest? Maybe.

But in the BCS world, it wouldn't be the only one.

Jim Little is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jllittle@ap.org

USC and Oklahoma headed to Orange Bowl

Southern California and Oklahoma finished atop the final Bowl Championship Series standings Sunday and will meet in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4 in a title game that might not produce a unanimous national champion.

Games through Dec. 4	Associated Press				USA Today/ESPN				Computers				BCS Average	Previous
	TEAM	Rank	Points	Pct.	Rank	Points	Pct.	Avg. Comp. Rank	Points	Pct.	Avg. Comp. Rank	Points		
1.	Southern Cal	1	1,599	.9840	1	1,409	.9970	2	97	.970	1	97	.9770	1
2.	Oklahoma	2	1,556	.9575	2	1,459	.9570	1	99	.990	1	99	.9681	2
3.	Auburn	3	1,525	.9385	3	1,435	.9410	3	92	.920	3	92	.9331	3
4.	Texas	6	1,337	.9228	5	1,281	.9400	4	88	.980	4	88	.9476	5
5.	California	4	1,389	.8608	4	1,286	.8433	6	80	.800	6	80	.8347	4
6.	Utah	8	1,345	.8227	6	1,215	.7967	5	83	.830	5	83	.8181	6
7.	Georgia	8	1,117	.8474	7	1,117	.7325	8	67	.670	8	67	.6968	7
8.	Virginia Tech	9	1,111	.8337	9	1,037	.6800	19	65	.650	19	65	.6712	12
9.	Boise State	10	960	.5908	10	943	.6184	7	76	.760	7	76	.6564	8
10.	Louisville	7	1,183	.7280	8	1,066	.6990	13	52	.520	13	52	.6490	9
11.	LSU	12	929	.5717	11	932	.6111	19	65	.650	19	65	.6109	11
12.	Iowa	11	948	.5834	13	812	.5325	12	55	.550	12	55	.5553	13
13.	Michigan	13	917	.5643	12	874	.5731	17	38	.380	17	38	.5058	14
14.	Miami (Fla.)	14	776	.4775	14	738	.4839	114	45	.450	114	45	.4705	10
15.	Tennessee	15	651	.4008	17	559	.3666	114	45	.450	114	45	.4057	15
16.	Florida State	17	647	.3982	15	643	.4216	21	22	.220	21	22	.3466	16
17.	Wisconsin	16	648	.3988	16	599	.3928	20	24	.240	20	24	.3439	17
18.	Virginia	18	482	.2966	18	455	.2984	18	30	.300	18	30	.2983	18
19.	Arizona State	21	222	.1366	24	173	.1334	11	56	.560	11	56	.2700	19
20.	Texas A&M	22	213	.1311	25	147	.0964	16	44	.440	16	44	.2225	20
21.	Pittsburgh	19	415	.2554	20	318	.2085	NR	0	.000	NR	0	.1466	23
22.	Texas Tech	23	168	.1034	21	234	.1533	22	19	.190	22	19	.1489	21
23.	Florida	20	325	.2000	19	324	.2125	NR	0	.000	NR	0	.1375	22
24.	Oklahoma State	32	16	.0098	28	35	.0230	19	25	.250	19	25	.0943	24
25.	Ohio State	24	155	.0954	22	181	.1187	NR	4	.040	NR	4	.0847	25

Explanation

Team percentages are derived by dividing a team's actual voting points by a maximum 1,625 possible points in the AP Poll and 1,525 possible points in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll.

Six computer rankings calculated in inverse points order (25 for #1, 24 for #2, etc.) are used to determine the overall computer component. The best and worst ranking for each team is dropped, and the remaining four are added and divided by 100 (the maximum possible points) to produce a Computer Rankings Percentage. The six computer ranking providers are Anderson & Hester, Richard Billingsley, Colley, Martin, Kenneth Massey, Jeff Sagani and Peter Wolfe. Each computer ranking accounts for schedule strength in its formula.

The BCS Average is calculated by averaging the percent totals of the Associated Press, USA Today/ESPN Coaches and Computer polls.

SOURCE: The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Inc.

Texas' rise in BCS puts A&M in Cotton

By JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Texas A&M's great turnaround season continued Sunday as the Aggies earned a spot in the Cotton Bowl against Tennessee.

And the Aggies have their rival, Texas, to thank for it.

The Longhorns would've been headed to Dallas on New Year's Day had they been left out of the Bowl Championship Series. But Texas nudged ahead of California in the final BCS standings, earning an at-large bid to the Rose Bowl and opening the Big 12 slot in this game for No. 22 Texas A&M.

California was relegated to the Holiday Bowl, where it will take on another Big 12 team, Texas Tech, on Dec. 30.

"The way we look at it, the Big 12 Conference offered the opportunity for Texas to get into a BCS game," Aggies coach Dennis Franchione said. "It certainly created an opportunity for us to come to Dallas, which we're very, very excited about."

The Aggies already were thrilled to know they'd be playing in any bowl for the first time since 2001. They earned it by going 7-4, with three of the losses to teams now ranked in the top six (No. 2 Oklahoma, No. 5 Utah, No. 6 Texas). Their success is even more remarkable considering they were 4-8 last season, their first under Franchione.

The No. 15 Volunteers (9-3) knew they were heading to the Cotton Bowl for the first time in five years after losing 38-20 to Auburn in the SEC championship game Saturday night.

"We're just really pleased that they [bowl officials] felt good about bringing the University of Tennessee back," coach Phil Fulmer said.

In other bowl games, Oklahoma State (7-4), which finished fifth in the Big 12 south, accepted a bid to play Texas-20 Ohio State in the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 29 in San Antonio.

Ohio State (7-4), which placed fifth in the Big Ten, accepted the Alamo Bowl bid Nov. 23 after upsetting then-No. 1 Michigan in its regular season finale.

Both teams will receive at least a \$1.5 million payout.

Colorado (7-5), the Big 12 Mountain champs, and Oregon State (6-5) will play in the new Mountain Division game to the Houston Bowl, where it will play Texas-El Paso (8-3) on Dec. 29.

The Buffaloes appeared headed to the Champ Sports Bowl in Orlando, Fla., but wound up moving to the Houston Bowl when Texas earned a BCS bid and the rest of the 12 teams moved up in the pecking order.

The payout for the Houston Bowl is \$1.1 million, the share for the Champ Sports Bowl is just \$850,000.

Syracuse snuck into the Champ Sports Bowl and will face Georgia Tech on Dec. 21 in Orlando. The Orange finished 6-5 and won a share of its fourth Big East championship. Arizona State (8-3) accepted a bid to the Sun Bowl, where it will meet Purdue (9-3) on Dec. 31 in El Paso, Texas. Each team will earn \$1.5 million.

UCLA (6-5) returns to the Las

Bowl Glance

Tuesday, Dec. 14
New Orleans Bowl
Payoff: \$750,000

North Texas (7-4) vs. Southern Miss (6-5)

Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payoff: \$850,000

Georgia Tech (5-5) vs. Big 12

Wednesday, Dec. 22
GMA Bowl
Payoff: \$750,000

Maryland (8-3) vs. Bowling Green (8-3)

Thursday, Dec. 23
Fort Worth Texas Bowl
Payoff: \$1,000,000

Cincinnati (5-5) vs. Marshall (6-5)

Payoff: \$750,000

Wyoming (6-5) vs. UCLA (5-5)

Friday, Dec. 24
Holiday Bowl
Payoff: \$750,000

UAB (7-4) vs. Wake Forest (6-5)

Saturday, Dec. 27
New Mexico Bowl
Payoff: \$750,000

Fresno State (9-3) vs. Virginia (8-3)

Sunday, Dec. 28
Al at Puntis, Mich.
Payoff: \$750,000

Toledo (9-3) vs. Connecticut (7-4)

Monday, Dec. 29
Independence Bowl
Payoff: \$750,000

Iowa State (5-5) vs. Miami (10-0)

Payoff: \$1.2 million

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NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	10	7	.588	
Boston	7	9	.438	1 1/2
Philadelphia	7	9	.438	1 1/2
Toronto	5	12	.294	2 1/2
New Jersey	4	13	.235	3 1/2

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	10	5	.692	1/2
San Antonio	8	7	.538	1
Charlotte	4	10	.286	6
Portland	4	10	.286	6

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	7	7	.500	
Indiana	10	5	.667	1/2
Chicago	7	7	.500	1/2
Milwaukee	4	10	.286	5 1/2
Memphis	4	12	.250	7 1/2

Western Conference

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	15	3	.833	
Dallas	12	6	.667	3
Houston	7	11	.389	8
Memphis	6	12	.333	9
New Orleans	4	12	.250	12 1/2

Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	15	3	.833	
Minnesota	9	5	.643	4
Denver	9	5	.643	4
Portland	8	7	.538	5
Utah	7	9	.438	6 1/2

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	14	3	.824	
Sacramento	12	6	.667	2
L.A. Clippers	10	7	.588	4
L.A. Lakers	8	7	.538	6
Golden State	4	12	.250	9 1/2

Sunday's games

Portland 121, Phoenix 105

Monday's games

Philadelphia 101, Toronto 91

Toronto 91, New York 81

Golden State 101, Detroit 81

Detroit 81, Orlando 71

Orlando 71, Denver 61

Charlotte 81, L.A. Clippers 71

Tuesday's games

New Jersey 91, Cleveland 81

New York 91, Memphis 81

Golden State 101, Phoenix 91

Phoenix 91, Charlotte 81

Charlotte 81, Philadelphia 71

Philadelphia 71, Memphis 61

Memphis 61, Atlanta 51

Atlanta 51, New York 41

New York 41, New Orleans 31

New Orleans 31, Seattle 21

Seattle 21, L.A. Lakers 11

L.A. Lakers 11, Phoenix 11

Phoenix 11, L.A. Lakers 11

L.A. Lakers 11, Phoenix 11

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Richardson lifts Suns past Blazers

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore.—Quentin Richardson used some long-range shooting to end the Phoenix Suns' short losing spell.

Richardson had his own 12-point run, on four three-pointers, and scored 37 points to lift the Suns to a 121-99 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Sunday.

He made eight threes overall to help Phoenix

(14-3) forget about its 97-93 loss Friday to Minnesota that snapped a

nine-game winning streak.

"I definitely felt like I couldn't miss," Richardson said. "The way those shots came down I didn't think I was going to miss."

Richardson matched his career high for made three-pointers, set against Boston last February, and equaled his career best with 12 attempts, reached twice before.

Shawn Marion had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Suns, who led by as many as 25 points.

"For us to regroup and get a good win over a good team, it says a lot about us, especially on the road," Marion said. "Sometimes it takes a little bit more off you than the road."

The Blazers, coming off a 99-89 loss in Seattle on Saturday night, were led by Zach Randolph with 24 points and 11 rebounds. It was his ninth double-double of the season.

After the game, coach Maurice

Chickles huddled with his players.

Later he suggested some lineup changes might be in store for the Blazers, who host Boston on Thursday.

"I'm not saying I'm going to do it but I'll be thinking about it," he said.

Forward Ruben Patterson, who plays in a reserve role, agreed that changes are needed for the 8-8 Blazers.

"Whatever happens, happens," Patterson said. "But something has to happen because we're not winning."

The teams went back and forth for most of the first half, until Richardson hit four straight three-pointers to make it 55-47 for the Suns.

His first, with an assist from Steve Nash, gave Phoenix a 46-45 lead. After another with Nash's help, Portland's Damon Stoudemire answered with a jumper, but then Richardson hit his third, with an assist from Amare Stoudemire. His last in the streak came with help from Nash.

His next try, with 2:36 left in the half, just missed, but he made another with 1:26 to give Phoenix a 60-47 lead.

He was 6-for-9 from three-point range in the first half, topping his season high of five accomplished at Cleveland on Nov. 10.

"Once he gets on a roll like that, he's very tough to stop," Phoenix



Phoenix Suns forward Quentin Richardson, right, drives past Portland Trail Blazers forward Ruben Patterson on Sunday.

coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Richardson was also 5-for-5 from the free-throw line, and the Suns made 20 of 25 foul shots.

Stoudemire, who had 19 points, rubbed it in with an alley-op dunk followed by another dunk that made it 89-66 for Phoenix in the third period.

Nash added 10 points and 11 assists for the Suns.

"I thought we would be a good team but I think it's important for us to realize that we're a long way from being as good as we can be," Nash said.

Shereef Abdur-Rahim had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Blazers.

Kings 119, Celtics 105: Peja Stojakovic had 27 points, including six three-pointers, to help Sacramento win its fourth straight game.

The visiting Celtics blew an 18-point lead after one quarter as the Kings won for the 11th time in 12 games. Sacramento cut the lead to eight points by halftime and seized control with a 12-0 run to start the third.

Mike Bibby scored six of his 15 points during the run, including the go-ahead basket that gave Sacramento the lead for good.

Stojakovic made four of his three-pointers in the third to give the Kings a 13-point lead heading to the fourth, 93-80.

Brad Miller had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings, while Chris Webber had 18 points and 10 rebounds. Bibby added 10 assists and Darius Songalia had 14 points.

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To much Tech, too little 'Dogs

Experienced and talented Jackets put a sting into rebuilding Georgia

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — An experienced team coming off a Final Four season. A young team that's just getting started on a major rebuilding job.

The result was predictable. No. 4 Georgia Tech avenged a year-old loss to its state rival — and then some — with an 87-49 rout of Georgia on Sunday night.

B.J. Elder scored 19 points, Jarrett Jack didn't miss a shot and the Yellow Jackets (5-0) romped to another easy victory on the heels of a 31-point victory over Michigan.

Georgia Tech was eager to reverse one of its most disappointing losses on the way to the Final Four. After opening last season with 12 straight victories, the Yellow Jackets lost 83-60 at Georgia in overtime.

"We were definitely thinking about last year," Isma'il Muhammad said. "We still had a bitter taste in our mouth about that one."

The Bulldogs (1-3) lost four key players from that team and could be one of the worst major-conference programs in the country. They have only seven scholarship players and are forced to rely on several walk-ons.

"It's progressing," freshman Sundatta Gaines said. "Even though we lost by whatever the score was, we played hard."

If wasn't nearly enough against the Yellow Jackets, Jack was 7-for-7 from the field — three of them coming from outside the three-point arc — and made his lone free throw on an 18-point night.

The lone blemish on his stat line: one turnover. Against Michigan, Jack had 11 assists and no turnovers.

"I know it's early, but I don't think I've ever been around a guy who has played at this high level from the first day of practice," coach Paul Hewitt said. "He's been playing unbelievable basketball, and I just hope it continues."

Georgia kept it close for about 10 minutes, only to have the Yellow Jackets methodically build a 43-30 halftime lead.

Things really got out of hand over the final 20 minutes. Georgia Tech opened the second half with a 12-0 run, the Bulldogs missing their first seven shots on the way to shooting just 33 percent.

It was Georgia's worst loss ever to the Yellow Jackets, eclipsing a 33-point blowout in 1996. "Obviously, they are a powerful team, and the game simply got away from us," Georgia coach Dennis Felton said.

Muhammad's driving basket made it a 20-point game barely 2 minutes into the half. Ra'Sean Dickey made two free throws for a 30-point lead with nearly 12 min-



Georgia Tech guard Zam Fredrick II (35) drives past Georgia guard Levi Stukes, left, during the second half of Sunday's game at Alexander Memorial Coliseum in Atlanta. No. 4 Georgia Tech beat Georgia 87-49.

utes remaining. Zam Fredrick swished a three-pointer to give the Yellow Jackets a 40-point cushion with 5 minutes to go.

At that point, Georgia Tech already had pulled out its starters, letting its younger players finish the game.

"In the second half, we stepped it up defensively," Hewitt said. "When you do a good job defensively, the offense comes easy for you."

The only drama occurred early in the second half. Jack scored on a nifty drive to make it 59-32, prompting Georgia to call a time-

out. As the players headed to the bench, Jack got into it with Steve Newman, leading to a brief scuffle at midcourt.

The teams were quickly separated, Jack and Newman were given offsetting technicals and there were no further problems.

"It's an emotional game," Jack said. "Temper flared a little bit, but there are no hard feelings."

Georgia Tech shot nearly 54 percent from the field and outrebounded the Bulldogs 44-25. Luke Schenscher, Muhammad and Dickey each had 12 points and Schenscher also had 14 rebounds. Levi Stukes led Georgia with 17 points.

Georgia Tech has won its first five games by an average of 26 points. The Jackets' only scare was a 60-59 victory at Illinois-Chicago, their lone road game.

Georgia's woes were epitomized by its freshman center, Dave Bliss. He picked up two fouls in the first 43 seconds, sending him to the bench for the rest of the first half.

He started the second half, but quickly picked up his third foul. After another stint out of the game, he fouled out with two more whistles in succession. Bliss was done with 11:06 left, having played just 3½ minutes.

'Cats hold off Mississippi St.

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Channing Frye had 18 points and 16 rebounds and No. 21 Arizona beat No. 15 Mississippi State 68-64 on Sunday despite being held scoreless for more than six minutes down the stretch.

The game was part of the 11th John Wooden Classic, honoring the former Bruins coach who won 10 NCAA championships in a 12-year span before retiring in 1975. In the other game, Boston College beat UCLA 74-64.

As usual, the 94-year-old Wooden attended the doubleheader.

Frye's basket with 6:23 remaining gave the Wildcats a 65-56 lead. But the Bulldogs got baskets by Marcus Campbell and Ontario Harper and four points from Gary Ervin to draw within one with 1:46 left.

Arizona's Hassan Adams blocked a shot by Shane Power with 30 seconds to play, and freshman Kwame McClain made a foul shot 9 seconds later to give the Wildcats a two-point lead.

McClain missed his second free throw, giving Mississippi

Men's Top 25 Roundup

State a chance to tie or go ahead. But Ervin threw a bad pass with 5.6 seconds to play, and Frye made two free throws to complete the scoring.

The teams combined for 39 turnovers — 20 by Mississippi State.

Adams had 12 points and nine rebounds and Salim Stoudamire scored 12 points for Arizona (5-2). Isaiah Fox added 10 points and Mustafa Shakur had eight points and nine assists.

Winsome Frazier led Mississippi State (6-2) with 18 points.

Campbell had 10 points and 11 rebounds and Ervin also scored points 10 for the Bulldogs.

Lawrence Roberts, who leads Mississippi State in scoring and rebounding, was held to seven points and seven rebounds.

The Wooden Classic was moved to Sunday from its traditional Saturday spot to avoid conflicting with the football game be-

tween No. 1 USC and UCLA at the Rose Bowl.

No. 14 Washington 89, E. Washington 56: At Seattle, Nate Robinson had 20 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Huskies (5-1), coming off a loss last week at Gonzaga.

Freshman Jacob Beiring had 14 points for the Eagles (2-3). The Simmons was 8-for-13 from the field and scored 20 points for the Huskies and Will Conroy added 11 points.

Washington opened with a 13-6 spurt over the first 4 minutes — getting three-pointers from Simmons, Conroy and Bobby Jones — and never looked back.

No. 16 N.C. State 76, Manhattan 60: At Raleigh, N.C., Julius Hodge bounced back from a brief benching to finish with 17 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Wolfpack (6-0), who trailed for most of the first 15 minutes before finally taking control.

Freshman C.J. Anderson had 18 points and 15 rebounds for the Jaspers (3-2).

Illini hop from fifth into first in AP poll

By JIM O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

Illinois took an unusual route to the top of The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll.

The Illini, riding an impressive victory over then-No. 1 Wake Forest, vaulted from fifth to No. 1 in the AP college basketball poll on Monday, moving past three unbeaten teams.

It is the third time in school history Illinois reached No. 1. This appearance at the top came following a 91-73 victory over Wake Forest, a game in which the Illini (6-0) led by as many as 32 points in the second half.

Illinois, which also won at Arkansas last week, received 25 first-place votes and 1,717 points from the national media panel.

Kansas (4-0) held second with 23 first-place votes and 1,700 points after victories over Nevada and Pacific.

Georgia Tech (5-0) and Syra-

cuse (7-0), the other teams Illinois vaulted, switched places from last week, and Wake Forest dropped to sixth.

The Yellow Jackets, who beat Michigan and Georgia by an average of almost 35 points last week, moved to No. 3 with 12 first-place votes and 1,632 points, while Syracuse, which beat St. Bonaventure and Colgate, was No. 1 on nine ballots and had 1,607 points.

Connecticut, North Carolina, Duke and Kentucky rounded out the Top Ten.

Pittsburgh moved from 13th to No. 11 and was followed by North Carolina State, Louisville, Texas, Arizona, Washington, Iowa, Alabama, Virginia and Michigan State.

The last five ranked teams were George Washington, Mississippi State, Maryland, Wisconsin and Gonzaga.

George Washington beat Michigan State and Maryland on consecutive days to win the BBAT Classic in Washington.

Big Ben, Steelers closing in on AFC North

BY MARK LONG

The Associated Press



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, left, looks for a receiver during the third quarter of the Jacksonville Jaguars Sunday.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Ben Roethlisberger has practiced the same scenario nearly every day since training camp.

He has 1:47 remaining, no timeouts and needs a field goal to win.

No wonder he made it look so easy Sunday night.

The rookie quarterback engineered a drive that set up Jeff Reed's 37-yard field goal with 18 seconds to play that gave the Pittsburgh Steelers a 17-16 victory over Jacksonville and extended their winning streak to 10 games.

"It's something special what he's doing," guard Alan Faneca said. "Is a rookie quarterback supposed to win a game like that on the road in a hostile environment in prime time? Probably not. That says a lot about him. He's special."

The drive covered 56 yards in six plays after Josh Scobee made a 36-yard field goal with 1:55 left to put the Jaguars ahead.

Roethlisberger was 3-for-4 for 39 yards on the winning drive, and his only incompletion came on a spike after he calmly let the clock run down to leave the Jaguars with little time for a comeback.

"I want the ball in my hands," said Roethlisberger, who set a record for most wins

by a rookie quarterback "I want to have control of the outcome of the game."

He had plenty of help, too.

Lee Mays made two huge catches, Reed drilled the kick and coach Bill Cowher effectively managed the clock.

Cowher used all three timeouts before the 2-minute warning as Jacksonville was driving for the go-ahead field goal, preserving plenty of time for his offense.

Nonetheless, Roethlisberger got much of the credit.

"He did a phenomenal job standing in the pocket and staying composed," receiver Hines Ward. "That's one of his characteristics."

Roethlisberger was 14-for-17 for 221 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for 40 yards after three rather sluggish games in an otherwise brilliant first season.

Jacksonville (6-6) had one last shot after a 19-yard completion from Byron Leftwich to Jimmy Smith, which gave Scobee a shot at a 60-yarder. It fell just short and wide right.

"I thought I have it, but it doesn't matter if you miss it by 100 feet or 1 foot," Scobee said.

The Steelers (10-1) are one win from clinching the AFC North and hold a tie-breaker for home-field advantage in the AFC over the New England Patriots. They also hold a four-game lead over Baltimore with four games left.

Jacksonville, which could have moved into a tie with Baltimore and Denver for the final AFC wild-card spot, lost its third in a row and remains a game behind those two. The Jaguars have had 11 of their 12 games decided in the final minute.

Pittsburgh scored touchdowns on its first two possessions, but was held without a point for the rest of the game until the final drive.

In the first three quarters, the Jags moved inside the Pittsburgh 15 three times, but came out with only six points — Scobee missed a 32-yard field-goal attempt in the second quarter and made two others. "It was as tough a loss as we've had since the AFC championship game in 1999," said Smith, who has been with the Jaguars since their founding as an expansion team 10 seasons ago.

The Jaguars tied it at 7 when Leftwich connected with Troy Edwards for a 22-yard score.

Pittsburgh made it 14-7 on Roethlisberger's 26-yard pass to tight end Jay Riemersma to cap a 72-yard drive.

"It's frustrating that we didn't get the job done when we pulled ahead," Jags coach Jack Del Rio said. "There were a lot of different ways that game could have ended in our favor. It didn't happen. We didn't come in here to play close. We came in here to win."

Bengals stun Ravens with comeback

BY DAVID GINSBURG

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Carson Palmer had the type of game the Cincinnati Bengals envisioned when they made him the top pick in the 2003 draft: 382 yards passing, three touchdowns and one uplifting comeback victory.

The fact that it occurred against the Baltimore Ravens made his performance that much more impressive — and the win much sweeter.

Palmer threw for 200 yards and three touchdowns in the fourth quarter, and the Bengals rallied from a 17-point deficit to beat the Ravens 27-26 on Sunday.

Shayne Graham kicked a 24-yard field goal as time expired, giving Cincinnati its first win in Baltimore in eight tries since 1996.

"It was important to do this against a division team, and to exercise another demon here," said Bengals second-year coach Marvin Lewis. Baltimore's defensive coordinator from 1996-01.

It also was Cincinnati's first road victory against a team with a winning record since 1990, and marked the second-biggest comeback on the road in franchise history — second only to an 18-point rally in 1996 against Baltimore.

The comeback came against a defense that entered the game tied for the NFL lead in fewest points allowed, and for three quarters the Ravens played up to that billing. But a 20-3 advantage disappeared under a barrage of Palmer passes, most of which



Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer, left, is protected by his line as he waits in the pocket to pass during the fourth quarter.

found their way into the arms of T.J. Houshmandzadeh and Chad Johnson.

"For us, that was uncharacteristic," Ravens defensive coordinator Mike Nolan said.

Matt Stover's fourth field goal put the Ravens up 26-24 with 1:42 left, but Palmer calmly drove Cincinnati (6-6) into position for the winning kick, covering 60 yards in seven plays.

A 32-yard pass to Houshmandzadeh was the 22-yarder to Johnson were the key plays in the drive.

Palmer, a second-year pro, went 29-for-36 in compiling a career-high in passing yardage. Houshmandzadeh had 10 catches for 171 yards, and Johnson amassed 161 yards on 10 receptions.

"I was making plays. Chad was making plays," Palmer said. "And when you give your quarterback a chance to throw the ball like that, against probably the best front seven in this game, those guys are going to get open. The O-line played lights out, and we ended up winning."

Before Sunday, the Bengals had been outscored 73-50 in the fourth quarter.

"Our goal is to make the last plays, and we couldn't have lost this game and still had that goal," Houshmandzadeh said.

After scoring 58 points a week earlier against Cleveland, the Bengals could muster only a field goal through the opening 45 minutes. But Palmer brought Cincinnati back.

"I think that was definitely a breakout game for him," Bengals guard Eric Steinbach said. "He just led the huddle. We had to score quick, and that's what we did."

Chester Taylor ran for 139 yards and a touchdown in place of the injured Jamal Lewis, but it wasn't enough for the Ravens (7-5) because Palmer was too good.

"He's a gifted young athlete, he's playing well, very poised," said Ravens coach Brian Billick, who conceded that Baltimore's bid to reach the playoffs took a severe blow.

Green leads Chiefs' rally over Raiders

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Kansas City Chiefs watched Oakland celebrate several big plays early in the game, and they got angry.

Their Trent Green took over and nobody could get him to brag about it.

Questionable all week because of sore ribs, Green almost single-handedly brought the Chiefs back in the second half. He completed 14 of 15 passes after halftime for 229 of his 340 yards and connected with Eddie Kennison for a tiebreaking 70-yard touchdown with 2:04 left in Kansas City's 34-27 victory over the Raiders on Sunday.

"From the overall game management standpoint, it was my best game," said Green, who didn't leave for sure until Friday that he would play.

Green completed his first 12 passes after halftime, and his only incomplete toss was batted down by Sam Williams.

Trent did a beautiful job," coach Dick Vermeil said. "Sometimes I take him for granted because I see him do so many wonderful things. I don't know if any quarterback has played a better second half of football than he played today."

Kennison's winning catch came at the 35, then he ran out of the grasp of rookie safety Stuart Schweigert. The Chiefs (4-8) scored on all four of their second-half possessions to end a four-game losing streak.

Kennison finished with eight catches for 149 yards.

Larry Johnson scored two second-half touchdowns, on a 53-yard run and a 10-yard reception from Green. Johnson was given the game ball and was praised by general manager Carl Peterson.

A lot of people in the media said I couldn't do what I did today," said Johnson, the team's top draft pick in 2003. "I knew if I got the opportunity, I could do something."

Raiders quarterback Kerry Collins earned cheers for once from Oakland's ungrateful fans, but couldn't pull off a victory in the waning seconds as he did a week ago in a thrilling 25-24 win at Denver in the snow. Collins was sacked in Oakland's final drive and also threw four incomplete passes.

The Raiders (4-8) haven't won at home since beating Tampa Bay in Week 3.

Collins connected with Ronald Curry for two of his three touchdown passes and was 27-for-41 for 343 yards without an interception.

Curry had TD receptions of 34 and 26 yards for the Raiders before being carted off with 5:46 remaining with what is probably a torn left Achilles' tendon. Jerry Porter caught a 51-yard scoring pass.

Curry was having a career game when he took a hard hit from safety Willie Pile on a 22-yard catch with 5:46 left in the fourth quarter.

Curry had catches for a career-high 141 — a Raiders' season high — and two touchdowns. He was scheduled to have an MRI on Monday.



Four Chargers quarterback Drew Brees is hit from behind by Denver Broncos' John Lynch during the fourth quarter of the Chargers 20-17 victory Sunday in San Diego. Brees fumbled but San Diego recovered.

Defense sparks Chargers

San Diego controls AFC West after reining in Broncos

By BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Drew Brees doesn't have to win every game for the San Diego Chargers.

On a cold, wet afternoon when San Diego's quarterback wasn't his usual precise self, the defense came up huge in the Chargers' biggest game in a decade.

The Chargers — yes, the AFC West — are in control of the AFC West after escaping with a 20-17 victory over the Denver Broncos on Sunday. San Diego's defense saved the day by intercepting Jake Plummer four times, including in the end zone in the closing minutes, and LaDainian Tomlinson ran for two touchdowns.

"Our defense carried us today," Tomlinson said. "They were the reason we won this game."

The Chargers (9-3) clinched their first winning season since 1995 and took a two-game lead in the division over Denver (7-5).

Now all that's left for Tomlinson, Brees, Antonio Gates and rest of the Chargers to do in this surprising season is to clinch a playoff berth, which they haven't done since 1995.

San Diego is on a six-game winning streak for the first time since going 6-0 to open the 1994 season, when it made its only Super Bowl appearance. Overall, the Chargers have won eight in nine.

Brees, the biggest reason behind the Chargers' turnaround from last year's NFL-worst 4-12 record, had his least-productive game of the season. He completed just 14 of 27 passes for 106 yards and no touchdowns. His club-record streak of 194 passes without an interception ended in the first quarter when he over-threw Gates and was picked off by Kenyon Kennedy.

Points were hard to come by in this game, but true to the team's AFL roots, it wasn't boring.

The Chargers scored only three points in the second half, when they were bailed out by their defense.

The biggest play came with 3:39 left after the Broncos drove to the Chargers' 7-yard line. Safety Jerry Wilson intercepted Plummer's pass in the end zone after cornerback Drayton Florence — who had an interception in the opening minutes — tipped a fade pass intended for Rod Smith.

"I was telling those cornerbacks, 'Be aggressive and just get a hand on the ball,'" Wilson said.

Especially in this weather, it was bound to happen.

Florence was making just his second start of the season because cornerback Sammy Davis is out indefinitely with a leg injury.

"I just played through his hands and read his eyes and made a big play," Florence said.

Plummer said throwing the fade route was just one of his options on the play.

"It was a jump-ball situation. I trust Rod. He went up there and almost had it. I wish I handed the ball off but you can't go back," Plummer said.

One drive earlier, the Broncos drove to the 14 but had to settle for Jason Elam's 31-yard field goal after Jamar Fletcher and Clinton Hart batted down passes by Plummer.

Tomlinson finished with 113 yards on 30 carries, pushing him past the 1,000 yard mark for the fourth straight season.

Plummer threw for 278 yards, but completed just 16 of 40 passes for no touchdowns.

Eagles ascend to new heights on McNabb's five TDs

By DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb insisted his best is yet to come.

It's sure going to be tough to top his performance Sunday in the Philadelphia Eagles' 47-17 victory over Green Bay.

McNabb threw a career-high five touchdown passes, had a team-record 464 yards passing and completed his first 14 passes.

"Week in and week out, we're out to get better. We're working on different things," McNabb said. "Our expectations are at the highest point, which is to win the Super Bowl. I don't think you can get any higher than that."

"We haven't played that perfect game yet. We hope it comes at the right time."

The NFC East champion Eagles are 11-1 for the third time in team history.

Brian Westbrook had 11 catches for 156 yards and three TDs, and Terrell Owens caught eight passes for 161 yards and one score.

McNabb finished 32-for-42 and broke the passing record held by Randall Cunningham (447 yards vs. Washington in 1989).

"We spread the ball around. Everyone contributed," McNabb said. "We sent that message out that week in and week out we can come ready to play."

Since losing to Pittsburgh 27-3 last month, the Eagles have won four in a row by at least 20 points, outscoring their opponents 151-50.

"I don't think any defense can stop us," Westbrook said. "The thing that is going to stop us ourselves."

It certainly wasn't Green Bay.

Philadelphia snapped Green Bay's six-game winning streak, but the Packers (7-5) remained tied with Minnesota for first place in the NFC North.

Brett Favre threw two interceptions that led to Philadelphia's first two scores. His streak of games with a TD pass was snapped at 36, second in NFL history to Johnny Unitas' 47 straight.

"I don't think that we put up much effort or that we put up much of a game going up against them, but they are pretty damn good," Favre said.

A rematch of a thrilling playoff



PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/RET

Safety Brian Dawkins celebrates Sunday after making one of the Eagles' two interceptions against Packers quarterback Brett Favre.

game 11 months ago, this one never lived up to the hype. The Eagles scored four TDs in the second quarter, led 35-3 at halftime and rested most of their starters in the fourth quarter.

They made their mark in the team record book before that. Owens and Westbrook gave the Eagles two 150-yard receivers in a game for the first time since 1962. Owens set the team record for TD receptions in a season (14), snapping a tie with Hall of Famer Tommy McDonald (twice) and Mike Quick. Owens also broke the team record with his seventh 100-yard game.

"I just thank God for Donovan. It's special. I can't put into words what he means to me," Owens said.

McNabb threw TD passes of 41 yards to Owens, 9, 41 and 12 yards to Westbrook and a 6-yarder to L.J. Smith. David Akers kicked four field goals in the second half.

Eagles coach Andy Reid broke Greasy Nelson's franchise record with his 67th win in his sixth season in Philadelphia. Reid is 67-34, his 25th victory against the NFL title game, in six seasons.

Favre finished 14-for-29 for 151 yards. Running back Ahman Green wasn't a factor in his first game after sitting out with bruised ribs last week.

Sunday's NFL stars:

Quarterbacks

■ Donovan McNabb, Eagles, threw a career-high five touchdown passes in the first half and finished with a team-record 464 yards passing in a 47-17 win over Green Bay.

■ Peyton Manning, Colts, was 25-of-33 for 425 yards with three touchdowns and two interceptions in a 51-24 win over Tennessee.

■ Carson Palmer, Bengals, went 29-for-36 for a career-high 342 yards and three touchdowns and led a 17-point fourth-quarter comeback in a 27-36 win over Baltimore.

■ Trent Green, Chiefs, completed 14 of 15 passes after halftime for one of his 346 yards and hit Eddie Kennison for a 100-yard, 70-yard touchdown with 2:04 left in Kansas City's 34-27 victory over Oakland.

Running backs

■ Kevin Jones, Lions, ran for 196 yards on 26 carries, both career highs for the rookie, and a 2-yard touchdown run in a 26-12 win over Arizona.

■ Clinton Portis, Redskins, ran for 148 yards on 31 carries, giving him 1,093 yards for the season. He had a 1-yard touchdown run and caught a short pass for another score.

■ Steven Jackson, Rams, ran for 119 yards on 26 carries, his first career 100-yard game, to help St. Louis beat San Francisco 16-6.

Receivers

■ Brian Westbrook, Eagles had 11 catches for 156 yards and three TDs. Teammate Terrell Owens added eight catches for 161 yards and one score in a 47-17 win over

Green Bay.

■ Brandon Stokely, Colts finished with eight catches for a career-high 153 yards and a TD, while teammate Marvin Harrison caught four passes for 106 yards and a touchdown in Indianapolis' 51-27 victory against Tennessee.

■ Ronald Curry, Raiders, had nine catches for a career-high 141 yards in a season-high 34-27 win over Oakland.

Defense

■ DT Pat Williams, Bills, lumbered his 217 pounds 20 yards to a TD with an interception, one of five by Bills, in a 42-32 win at Miami.

■ La Monte Edwards, Chargers, had 20 tackles in a 20-17 victory against Denver.

■ Will Demps, Ravens, had 14 tackles against Cleveland.

■ DE Simon Rice and LB Derrick Brooks each had two sacks in Tampa Bay's 27-6 victory over Atlanta.

■ QB Kerry Azavedo, Browns, picked off two passes by Dante Culpepper in Chicago's 34-14 victory over Minnesota.



SPORTS



Bonds, Giambi, Sheffield
unlikely to be punished
by MLB, Page 32

BCS leaves victims helpless

There are conflicts of interest. And then there's the Bowl Championship Series.

The BCS is to college football what Tony Soprano is to waste hauling in New Jersey — a monopoly turning a tidy profit by cleaning up messes without dithering over who gets hurt along the way.

This season's victims were Auburn and California. Last season's was Southern California. In past seasons, Oregon, Colorado, Kansas State, Miami and a few other schools got the back of the BCS hand.

All got sympathy notes, too, and promises the beatings would stop.

But the only thing that's changed since the BCS hijacked the postseason in 1998 is the name of the victims.

The power brokers of six major conferences, four big bowls and their television

Jim Litke



partners forced their way into the business by promising to match the Nos. 1 and 2 teams in a national championship game. Instead of a real competition — a playoff — to determine those two teams, the BCS did math problems until their heads hurt, kept their fingers crossed until they suffered cramps, tinkered with the formula every offseason and then did more crowing about their handiwork than they had a right to.

"The bottom line is whatever formula we have is going to be the target of some

significant criticism at the end of the day," said BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg, also the Big 12 commissioner.

Maybe that's because the formula never worked.

It wasn't devised to handle the possibility that three teams from major conferences would finish undefeated, which happened this season for the first time. Under the BCS formula, USC and Oklahoma meet in the Orange Bowl for the national championship, and Auburn is left to take its frustrations out on Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl.

"It's not a perfect system," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said, "and if it was we'd all be happy today."

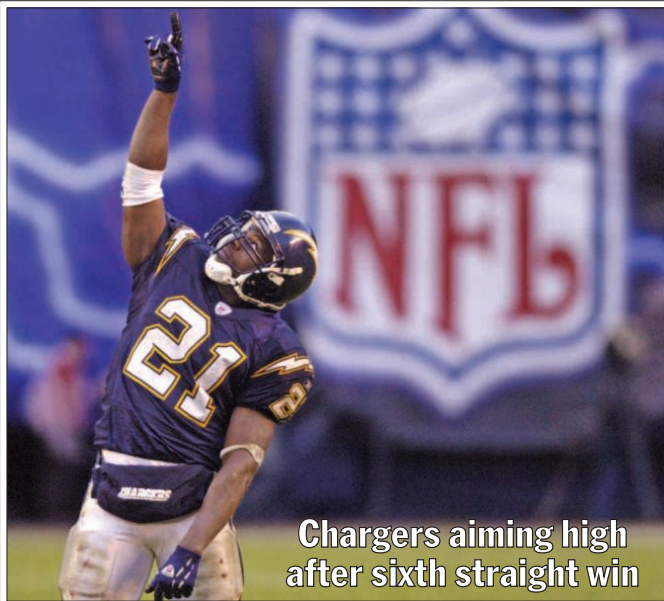
But at least the BCS cushioned the blow. In exchange for dashing their title hopes, the BCS shunted the Tigers to a glamour

bowl and a payoff of between \$14 million and \$17 million. Cal and coach Jeff Tedford barely got a parting gift.

The Golden Bears finished fourth in both the human polls, one spot ahead of Texas. But they trailed the Longhorns in the computer rankings by a wide enough margin to finish one spot behind in the BCS standings.

A fifth-place finish should have been enough to earn Cal a spot in one of four major bowls. But that won't happen this time around because of two previous BCS conflicts of interest. The first was guaranteeing places for the major conference winners that founded the BCS, even though Big East champion Pitt, Big Ten champ Michigan and ACC winner Virginia Tech were less deserving.

SEE BCS ON PAGE 33



Chargers aiming high
after sixth straight win

Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson, who ran for 113 yards and two touchdowns, celebrates San Diego's victory over Denver. The Chargers secured their first winning season since 1994 and have a two-game lead in the AFC West. See Page 39 for details.



McNabb keeps Eagles
on high with 5 TDs
against Packers

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Steelers close to
wrapping up AFC North
with win over Jaguars

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Richardson makes sure Suns' dry spell isn't long

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